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# CLIMATOLOGY OF SURFACE INFRARED EXTINCTION COEFFICIENTS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN REGION

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Naval Environmental Prediction Research Facility

AUGUST 1982

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## 1. Introduction

The performance of infrared sensors which detect radiation in either the 3-5 or the 8-12 micrometer band is degraded primarily by molecular water vapor absorption and secondarily by aerosol absorption. The combination of these effects can be expressed by the extinction coefficient.

This climatology presents mean extinction coefficients for the North Atlantic Ocean. The standard deviation of the extinction coefficient is included. The coefficients are calculated from surface observations of meteorological parameters and are categorized diurnally and monthly.

## 2. Method

Observations made aboard transient ships between 1963 and 1973 were analyzed using an algorithm which evaluates molecular and aerosol absorption separately. The effect of precipitation and fog was also evaluated. Total extinction is the sum of the individual extinction coefficients. The method assumes horizontal homogeneity.

### 2.1 Molecular Extinction

The primary molecular absorber in the infrared bands is water vapor. The extinction model uses a polynomial fit to the correlations between absolute humidity and transmittance developed for LOWTRAN 3B. In converting from transmittance to extinction, a 10 kilometer range was used to approximate the range dependence of the extinction coefficient. The model

incorporates the effect of other atmospheric gases, including nitrogen, methane and ozone. The LOWTRAN 3B model is described by Selby et al. (1976).

## 2.2 Aerosol Extinction

Two classes of aerosols comprise the marine aerosol burden: a coarse mode generally consisting of sea salt particles produced by wave action; and an accumulation mode consisting of smaller particles which are usually generated over land and transported over the ocean. The size of these aerosols is proportional to the ambient relative humidity with larger equilibrium radii occurring at higher humidities. The total aerosol extinction depends on the aerosol concentration and size distribution.

Aerosol extinction was related to the aerosol distribution by modeling Mie extinction. Size-dependent extinction factors were calculated for each particle size using an approximation of the Mie series. The extinction factors were integrated using Simpson's rule.

Correlations of aerosol extinction with wind speed and relative humidity were fit to the product of two six-term polynomials derived from the aerosol model of Ruhnke and Katz (Katz, 1979). The polynomials are shown in Table 1.

## 2.3 Extinction by Precipitation and Fog

This climatology assumes the infrared range to equal the visible range when the latter is less than 1 kilometer (Chu and Hogg, 1968). For rainy conditions, the infrared extinction was calculated using the approximate Mie extinction mentioned in

Table 1. Polynomials for aerosol extinction.  
(Katz et al., 1979)

(A) Visible

V<10.5				V>10.5			
	V	RH		V	RH		
a <sub>1</sub>	8.0656290E-01	b <sub>1</sub>	-4.0724070E+00	a <sub>1</sub>	-8.5042480E+00	b <sub>1</sub>	-6.1357060E+00
a <sub>2</sub>	4.8520300E-02	b <sub>2</sub>	3.8657170E-01	a <sub>2</sub>	3.7821490E+00	b <sub>2</sub>	5.8396200E-01
a <sub>3</sub>	5.3597340E-03	b <sub>3</sub>	-1.4057360E-02	a <sub>3</sub>	-6.0528960E-01	b <sub>3</sub>	-2.1248330E-02
a <sub>4</sub>	0.	b <sub>4</sub>	2.4963620E-04	a <sub>4</sub>	4.8357760E-02	b <sub>4</sub>	3.7770160E-04
a <sub>5</sub>	0.	b <sub>5</sub>	-2.1680100E-06	a <sub>5</sub>	-1.9157190E-03	b <sub>5</sub>	-3.2840400E-06
a <sub>6</sub>	0.	b <sub>6</sub>	7.3886720E-09	a <sub>6</sub>	3.0789070E-05	b <sub>6</sub>	1.1209860E-08

(B) IR (3-5 μm)

V	RH	V	RH
4.4830400E-01	-1.0954810E+00	-1.5394480E+01	-3.6260420E+00
9.4428620E-02	1.0332880E-01	6.5652260E+00	3.4324990E-01
2.9353200E-02	-3.7567660E-03	-1.0650840E+00	-1.2486140E-02
0.	6.6711950E-05	8.6452940E-02	2.2191880E-04
0.	-5.7940950E-07	-3.4728240E-03	-1.9295010E-06
0.	1.9750270E-09	5.6775010E-05	6.5872470E-09

(C) IR (8-12)

V	RH	V	RH
5.7299230E-01	-4.9008940E-01	-2.2558370E+01	-1.9854980E+00
4.0375010E-02	4.6270000E-02	9.9913630E+00	1.8723860E-01
3.3178700E-02	-1.6824490E-03	-1.7116370E+00	-6.8089500E-03
0.	2.9862250E-05	1.4629840E-01	1.2091620E-04
0.	-2.5918130E-07	-6.2036010E-03	-1.0501340E-06
0.	8.8256150E-10	1.0738750E-04	3.5788830E-09

$$\beta = [a_1 + u(a_2 + V(a_3 + V(a_4 + V(a_5 + Va_6))))] [b_1 + R(b_2 + R(b_3 + R(b_4 + R(b_5 + Rb_6))))]$$

where

$$V = \begin{cases} V-3.5 & V > 4 \text{ m/s} \\ 0.5 & V < 4 \text{ m/s} \end{cases}$$

$$R = RH$$

$\beta$  = aerosol extinction (1/km)

Para. 2.2 and a Marshall-Palmer raindrop size distribution. The extinction was related to the present weather indicator as shown in Table 2. Extinction due to snow or ice was not calculated.

Table 2. Infrared extinction coefficient as related to present weather indicator.

Present Weather Indicator	Description	Extinction Coefficient ( $\text{Km}^{-1}$ )
50-59	Drizzle	0.035
60	Slight, intermittent rain	
61	Slight, continuous rain	0.2
80	Slight rain shower	
62	Moderate, intermittent rain	
63	Moderate, continuous rain	0.6
81	Moderate or heavy rain shower	
64	Heavy, intermittent rain	
65	Heavy, continuous rain	1.6
82	Violent rain shower	

### 3. Results

Isopleths of monthly mean extinction coefficient values are shown for each infrared band in Figures 1-72; data are presented for day, night and combined periods. Contours of the standard deviation of the extinction coefficient are shown in Figures 73-84.

Standard deviation statistics are shown only for January and July since the data were too variable for computer contouring. Therefore, subjective analysis of the standard deviation fields was done by hand. The magnitude of the standard deviation is generally larger than the mean value and indicates the extreme variability of infrared extinction over the North Atlantic Ocean. This variability is greatest between  $40^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $60^{\circ}\text{N}$ .

## REFERENCES

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- Katz, B. K., 1979: Personal communication.
- Selby, J. E.A., E. P. Shettle, and R. A. McClatchey, 1976: Atmospheric transmittance from 0.25 to 28.5  $\mu\text{m}$ : supplement LOWTRAN 3B, AFGL-TR-76-0258, ADA 040701.

## FIGURES

Figures 1-84 are sequenced for the 12 months of the calendar year Jan-Dec, as follows:

### Mean Extinction Coefficients, 3-5 Microns

All Hours -- Figs. 1-12 (day and night combined)  
Nighttime -- Figs. 13-24  
Daytime -- Figs. 25-36

### Mean Extinction Coefficients, 8-12 Microns

All Hours -- Figs. 37-48 (day and night combined)  
Nighttime -- Figs. 49-60  
Daytime -- Figs. 61-72

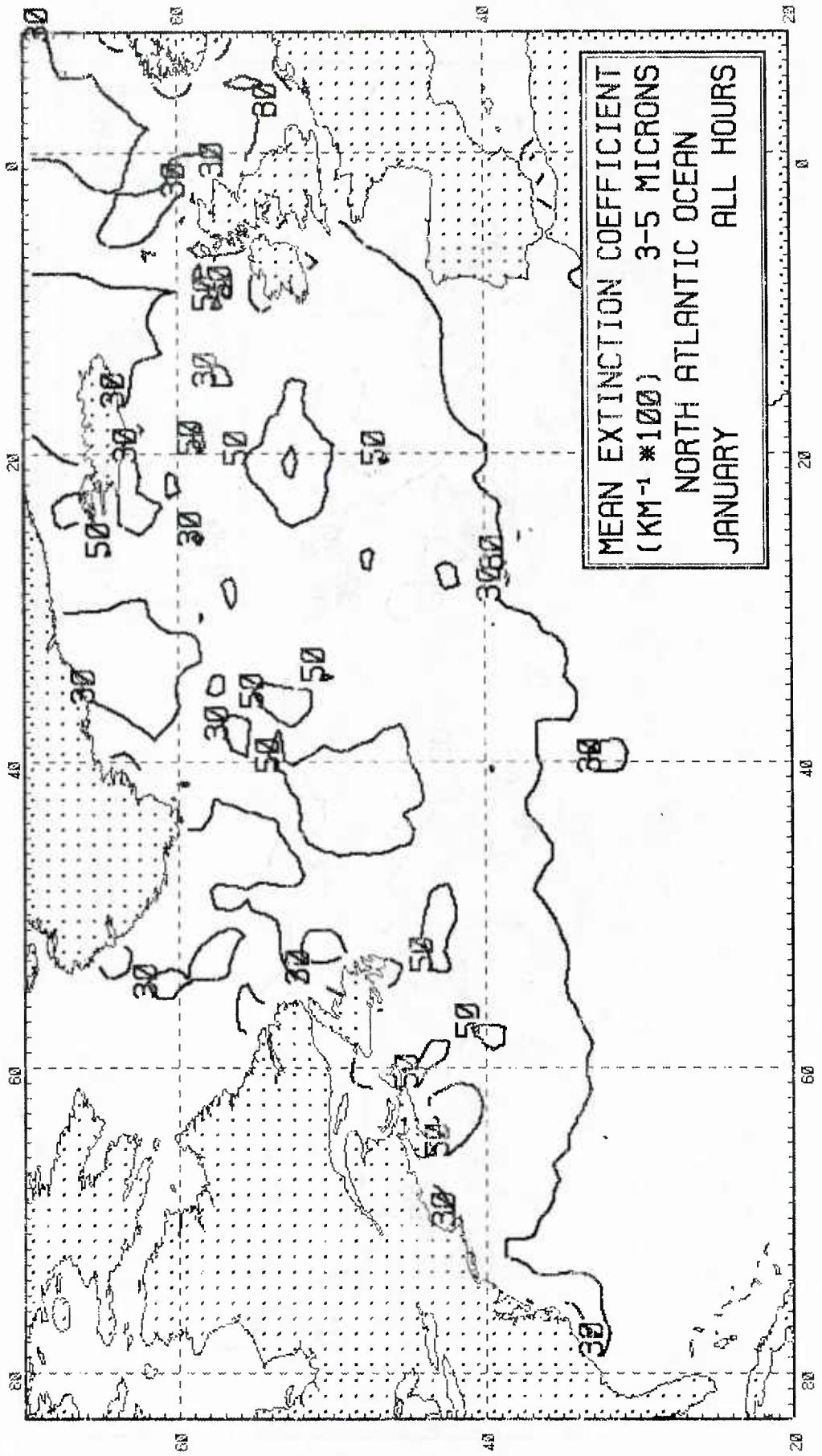
### Extinction Coefficient Standard Deviation, 3-5 Microns\*

All Hours -- Figs. 73, 74 (day and night combined)  
Nighttime -- Figs. 75, 76  
Daytime -- Figs. 77, 78

### Extinction Coefficient Standard Deviation, 8-12 Microns\*

All Hours -- Figs. 79, 80 (day and night combined)  
Nighttime -- Figs. 81, 82  
Daytime -- Figs. 83, 84

\*Months of January and July only.



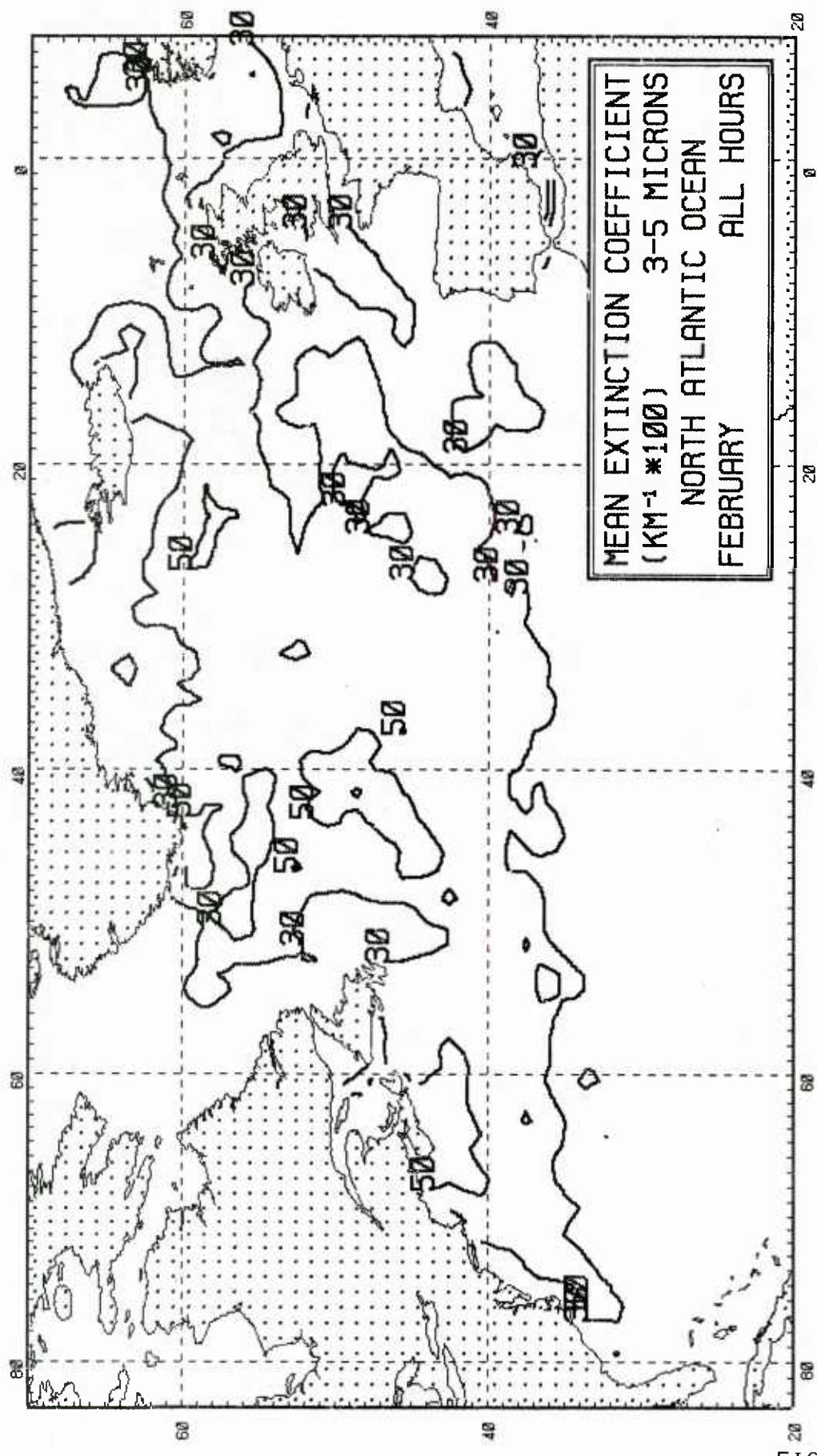
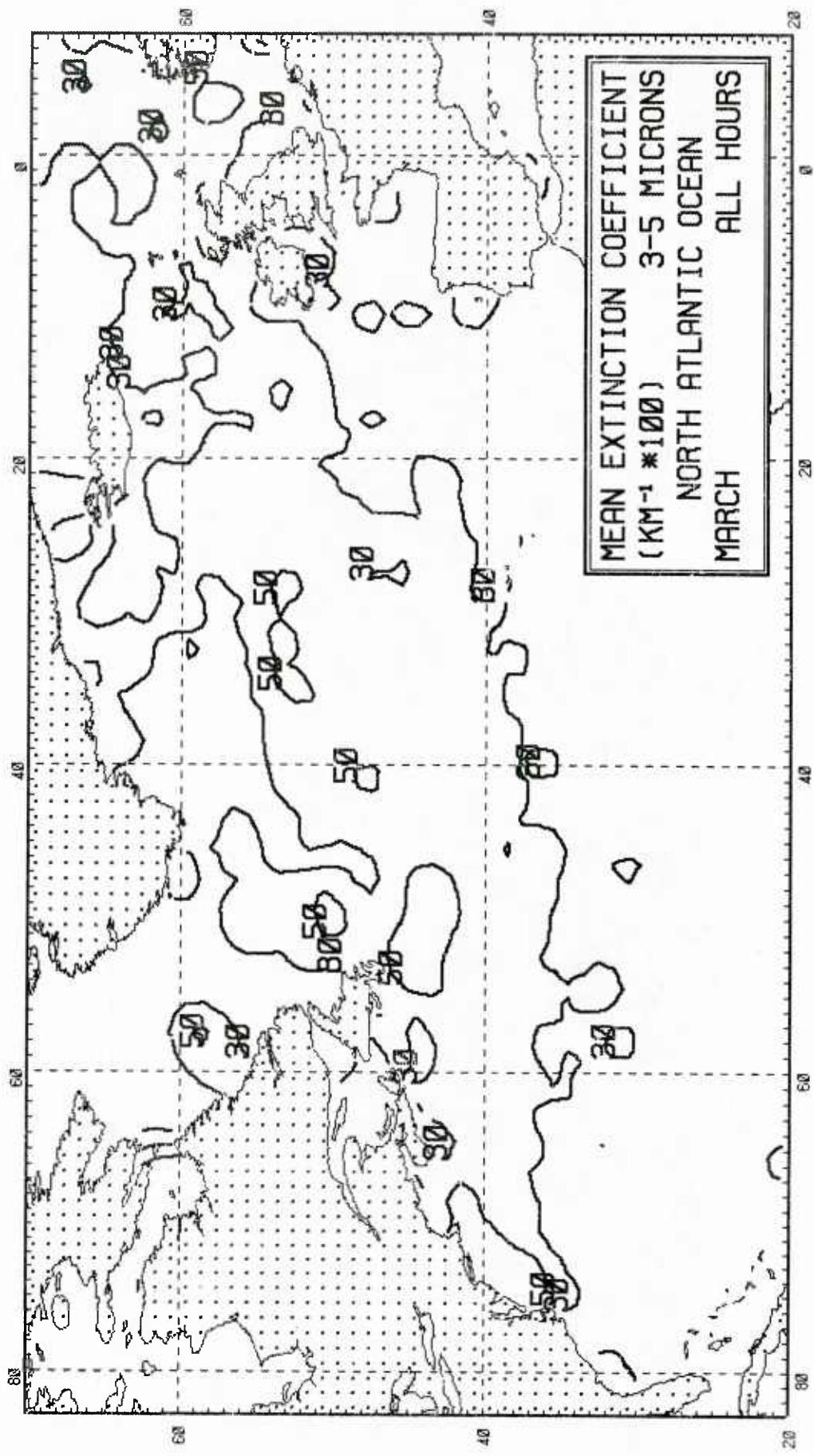


FIGURE 2



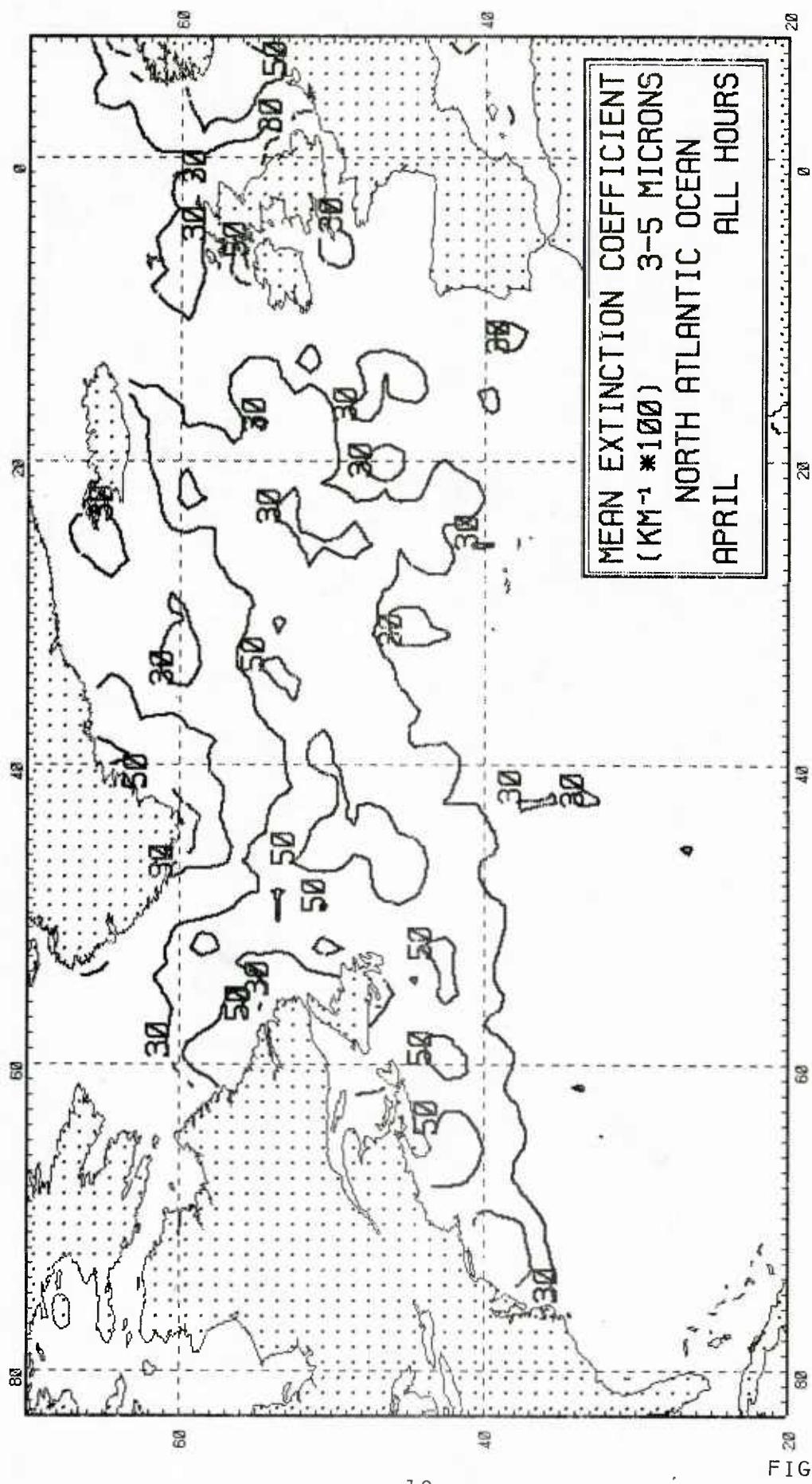
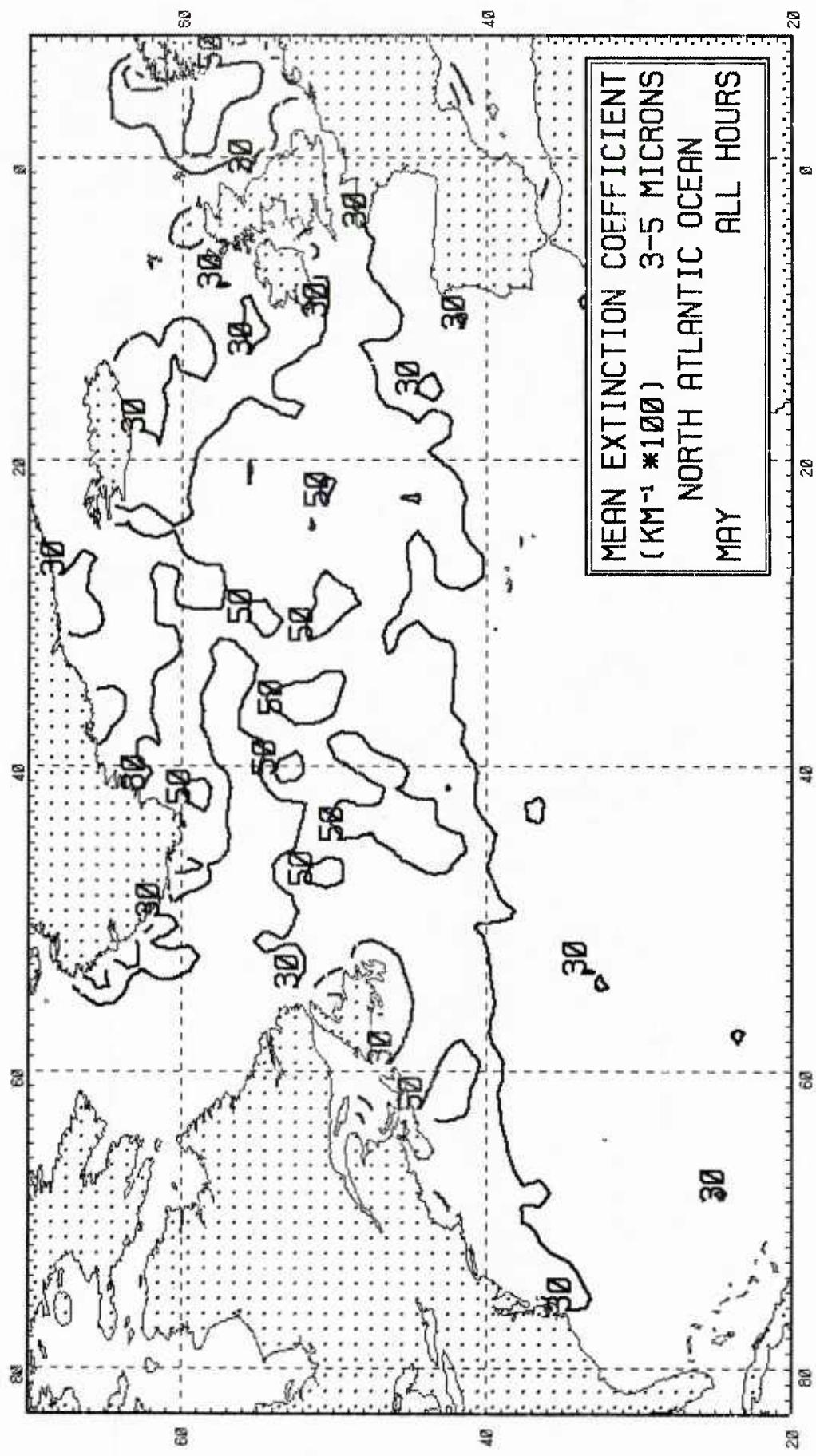
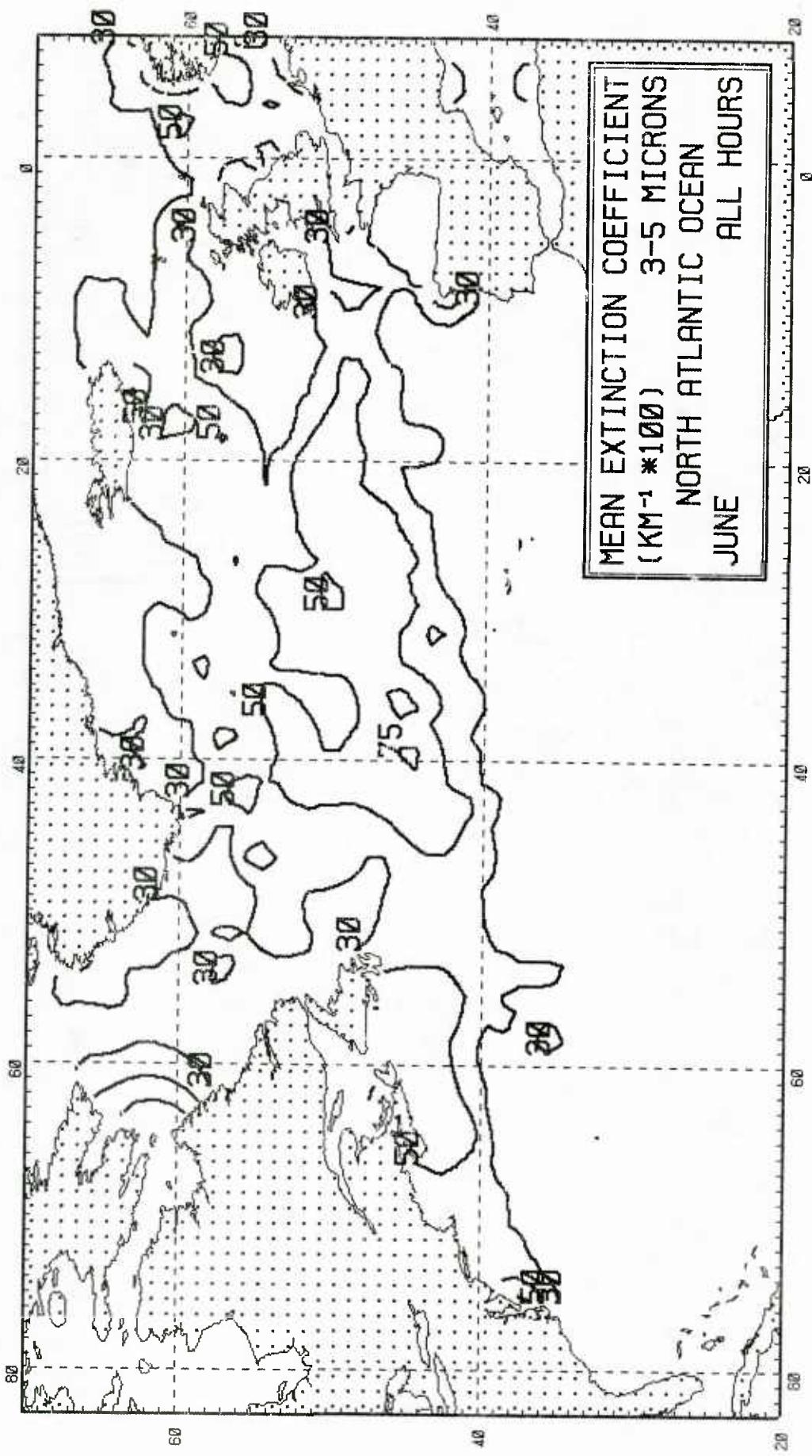
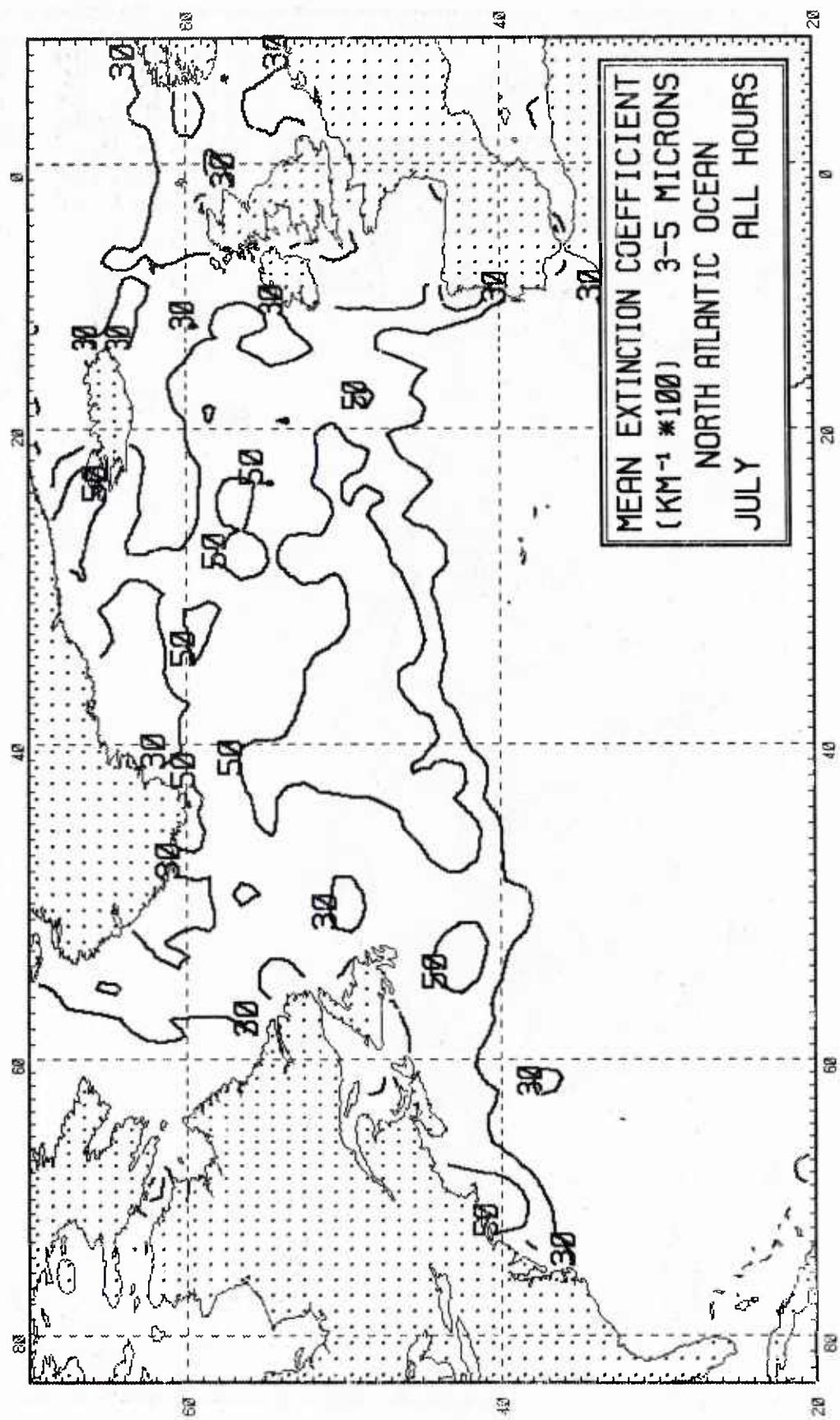
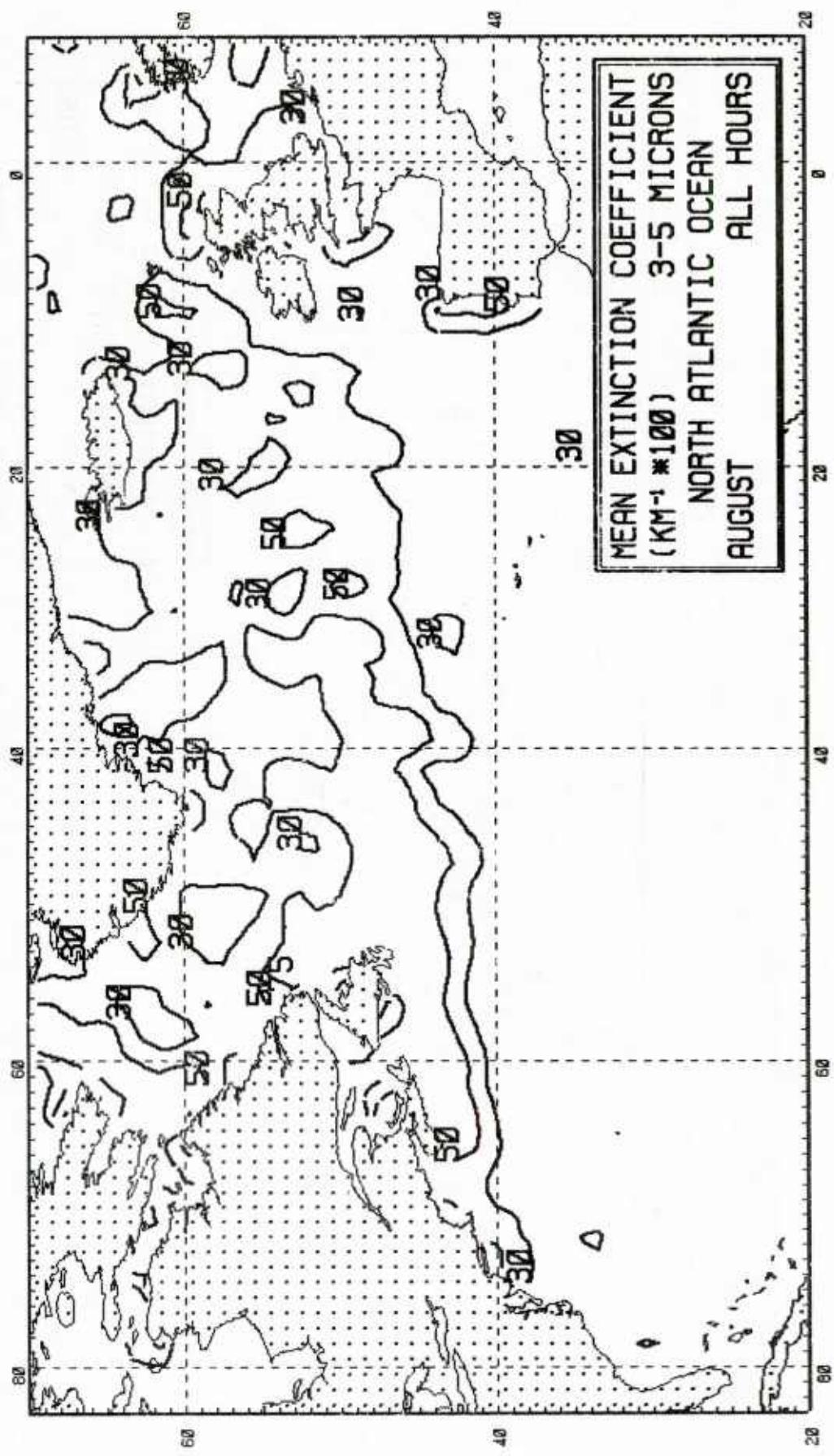


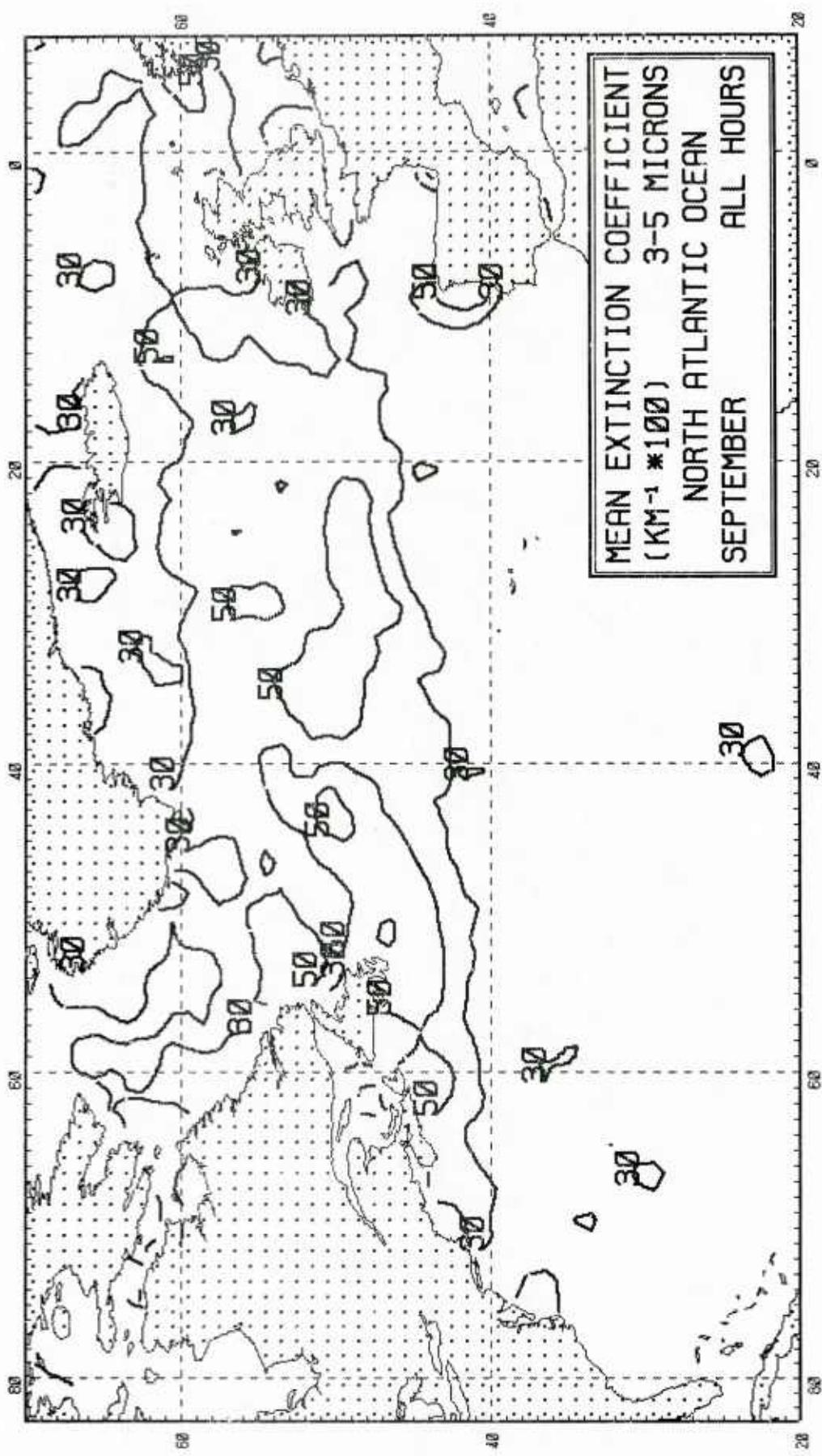
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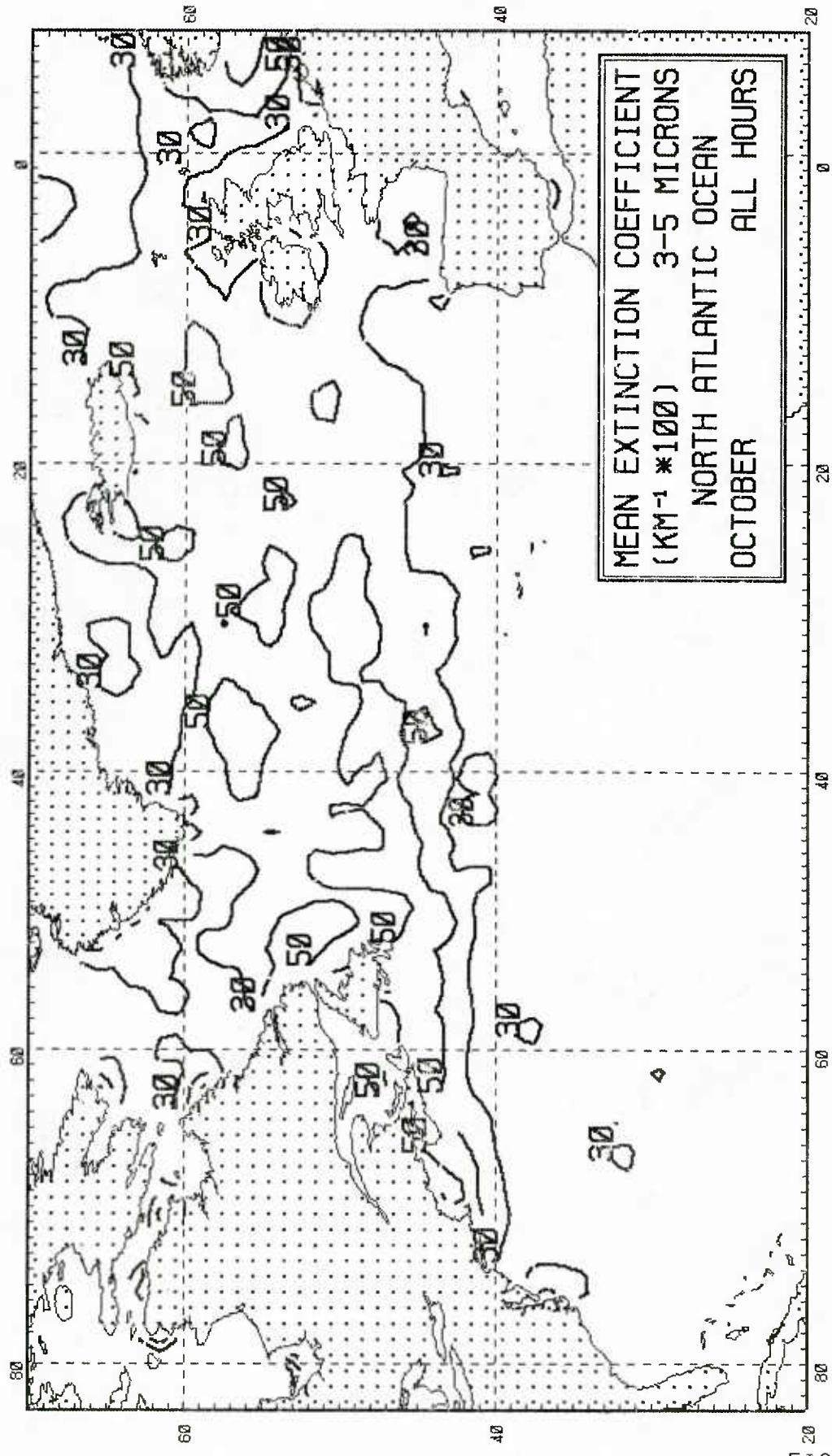


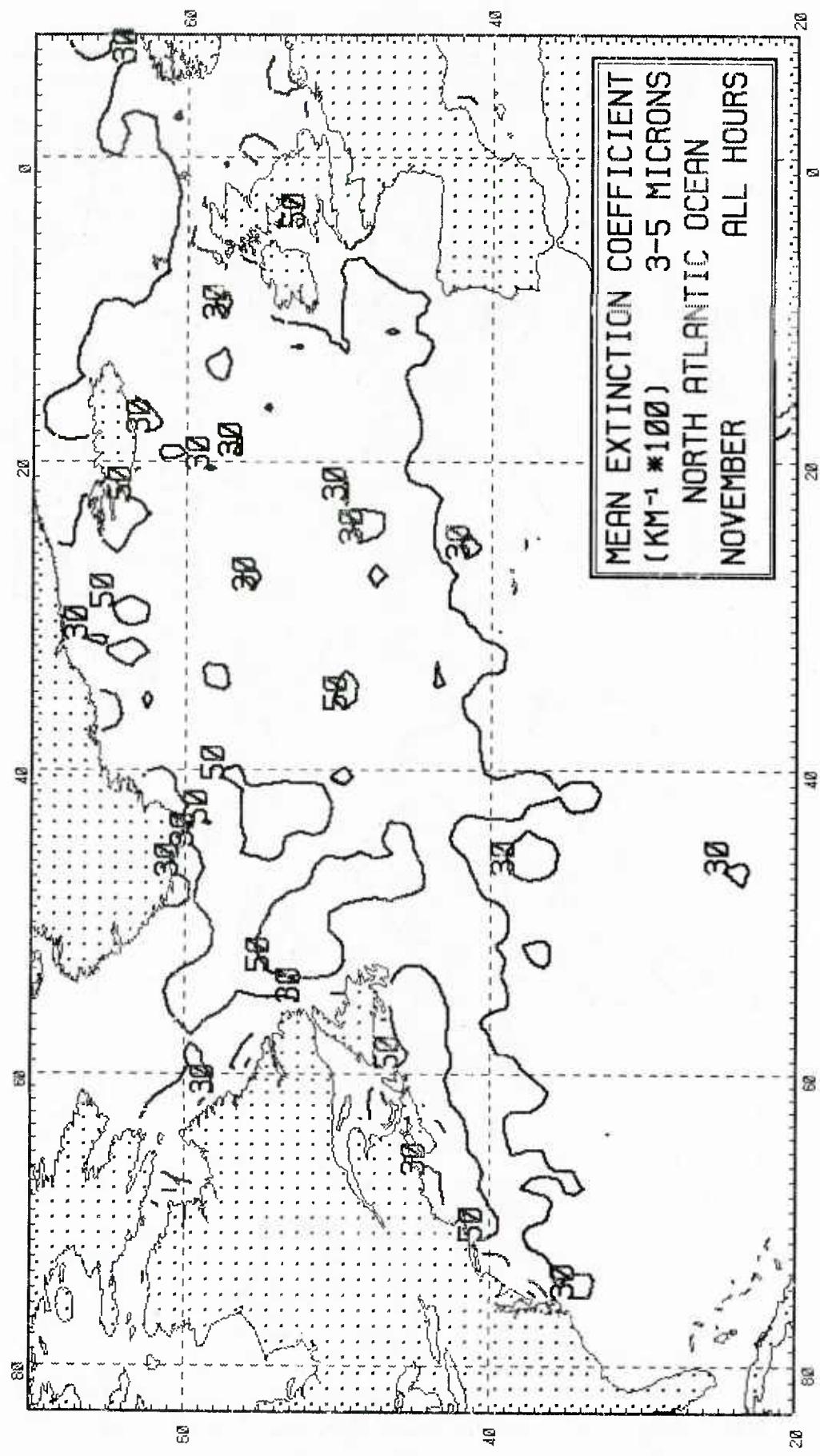


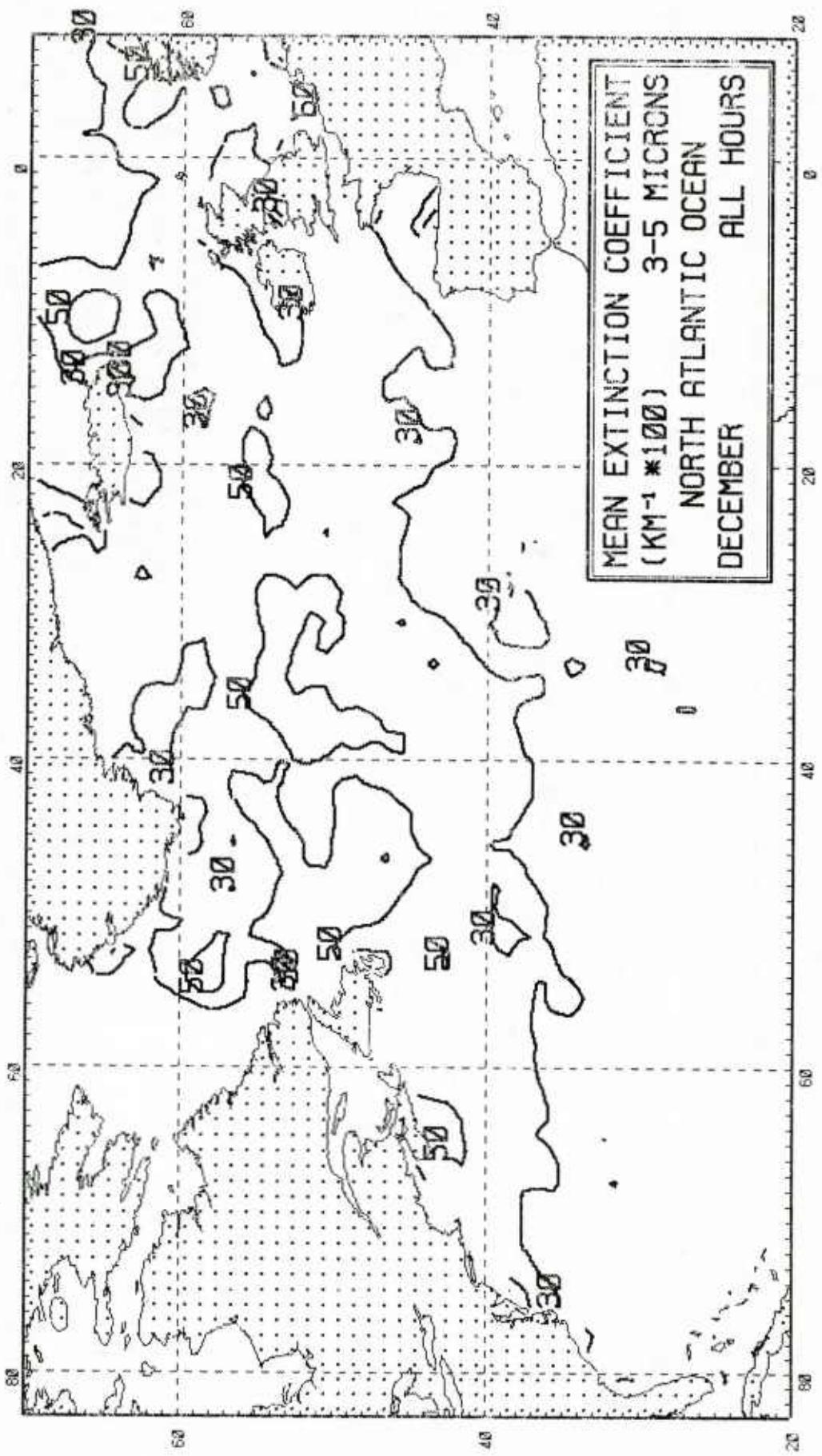












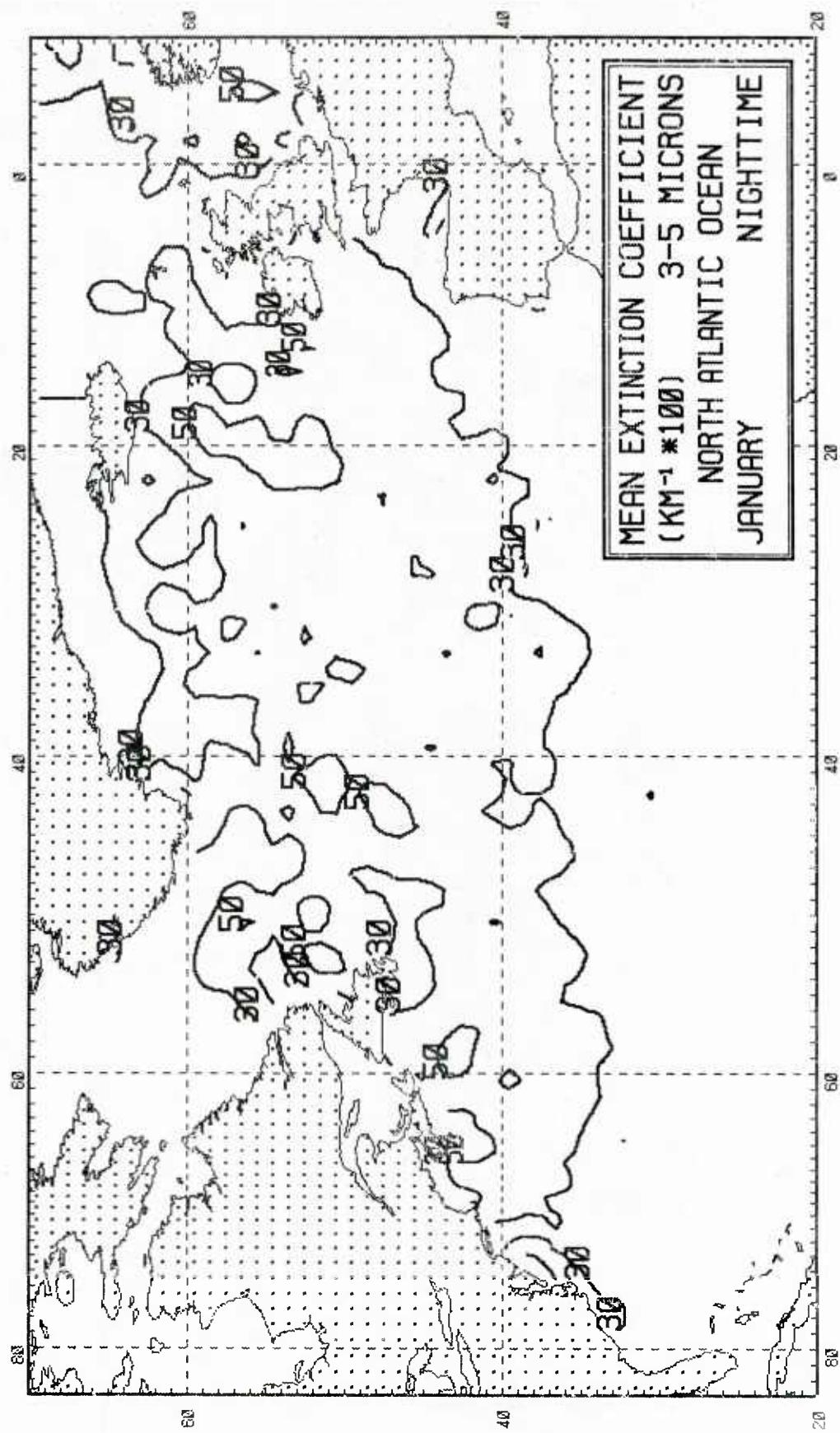
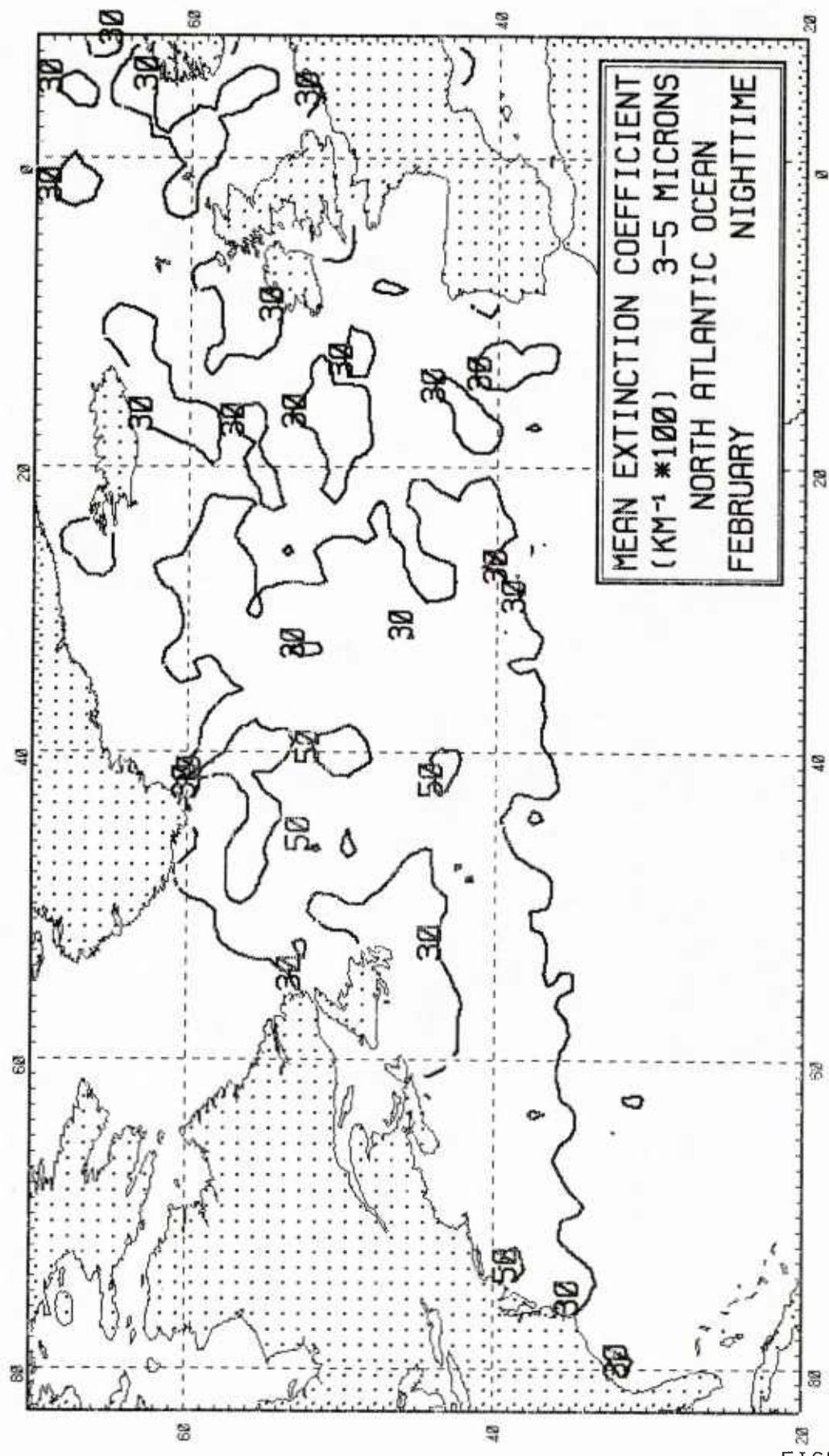
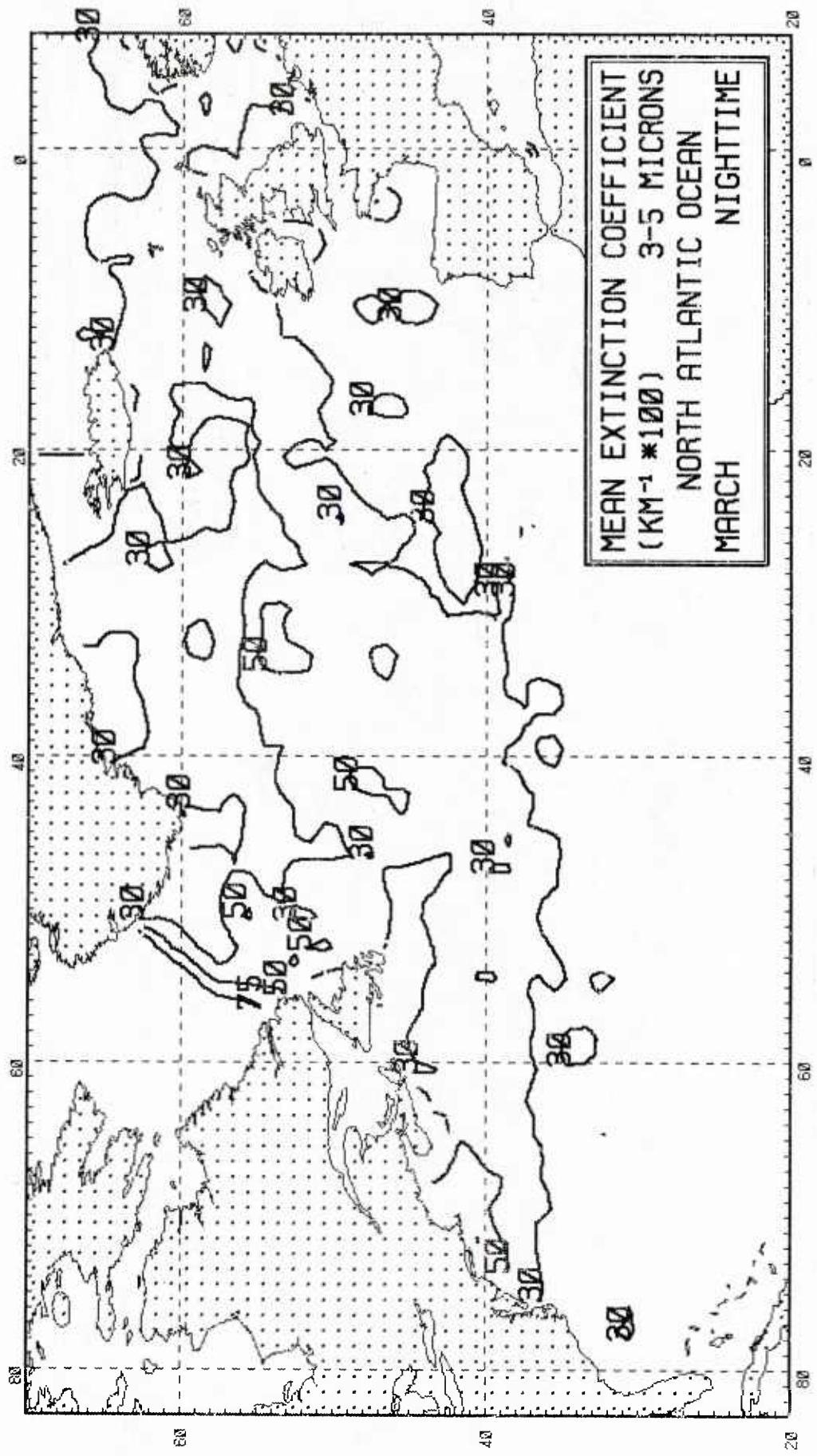
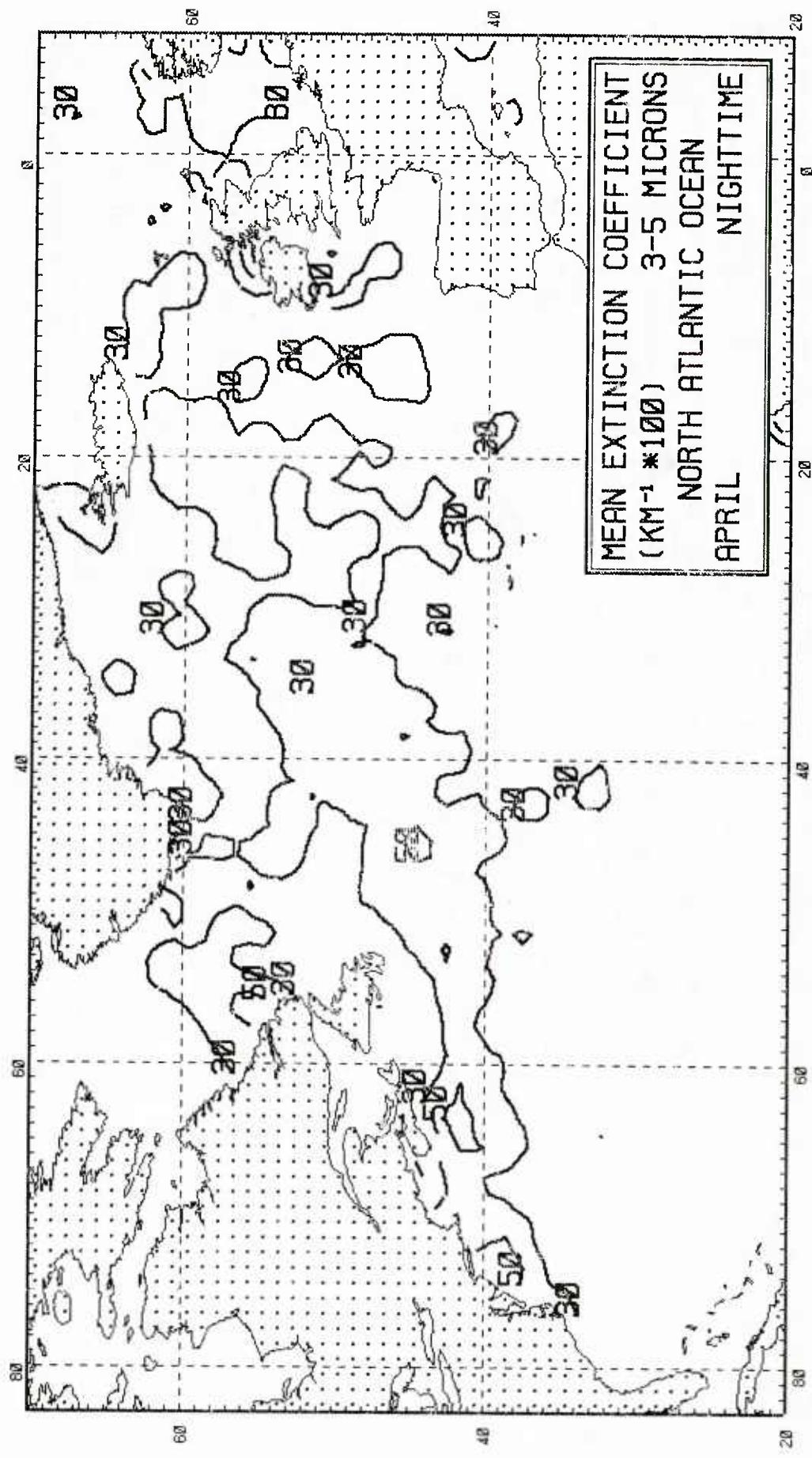
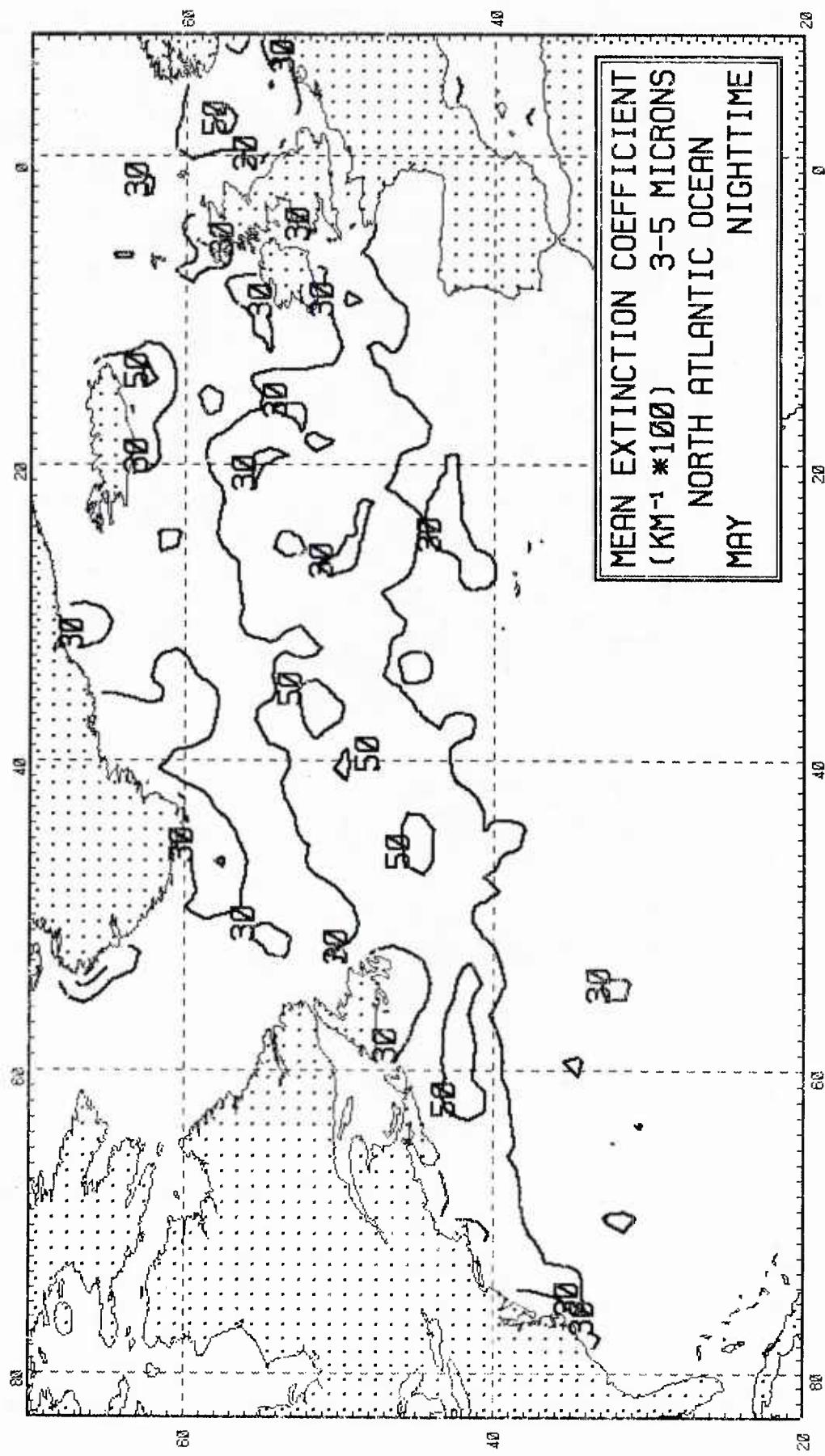


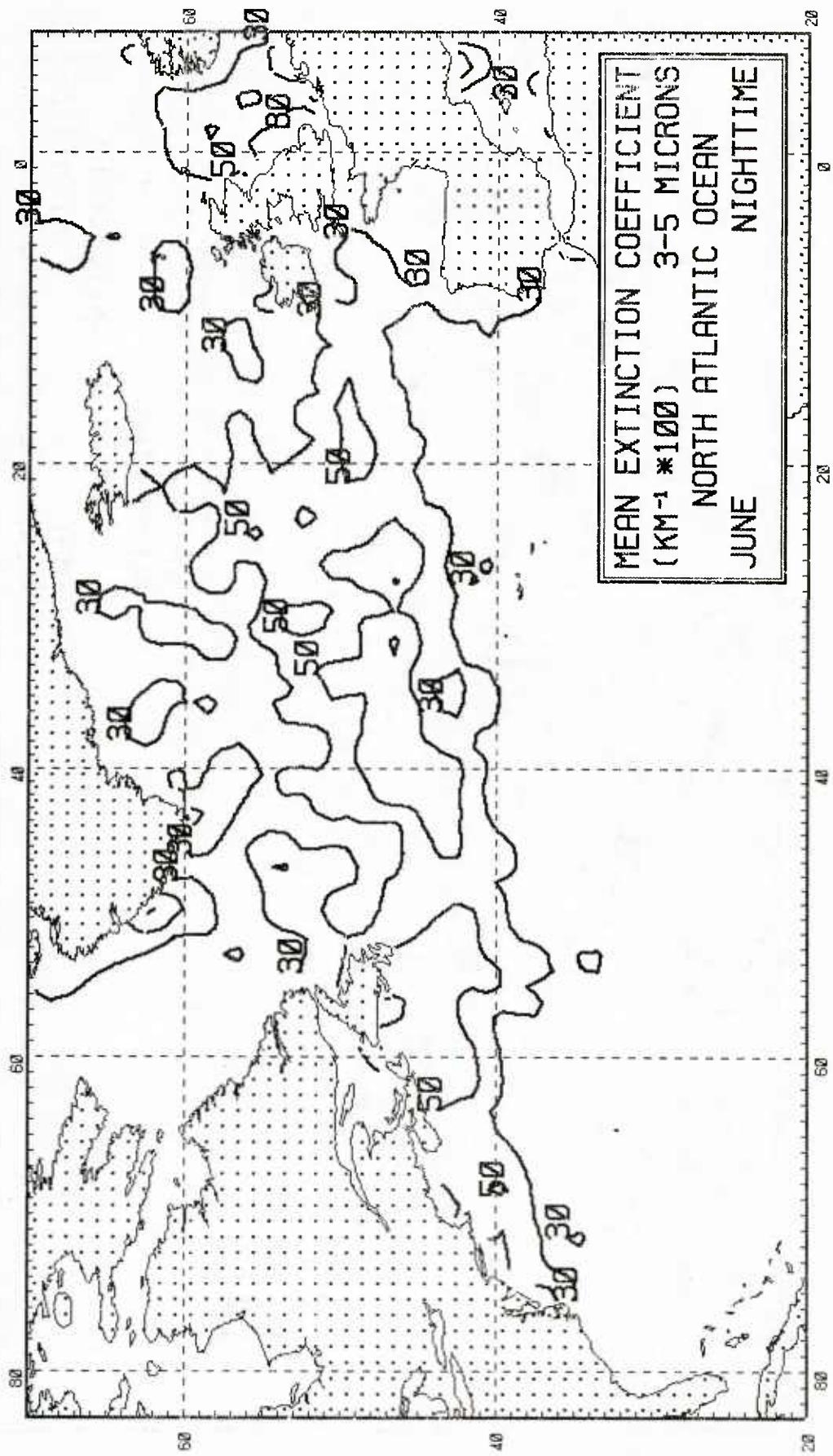
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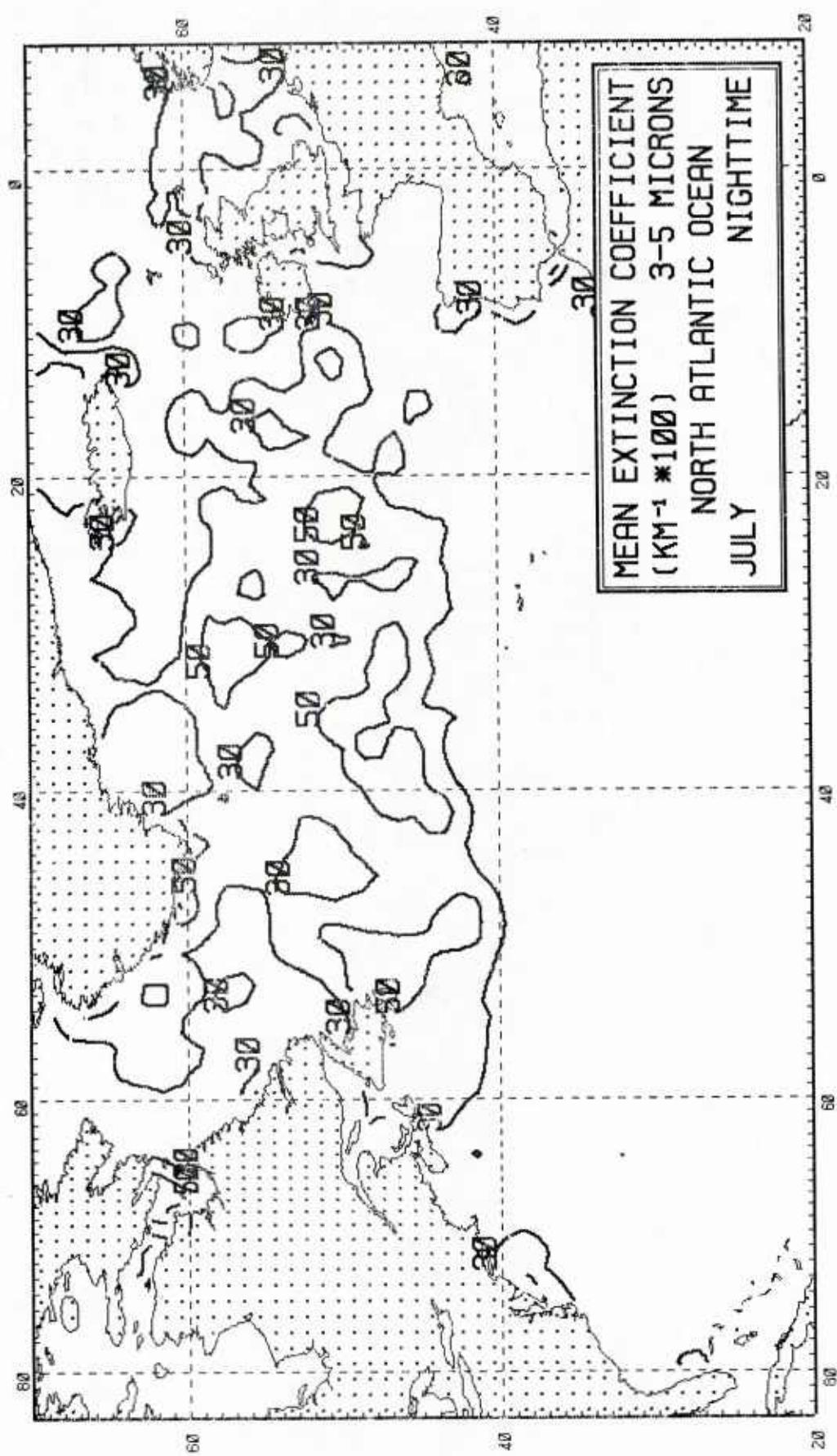


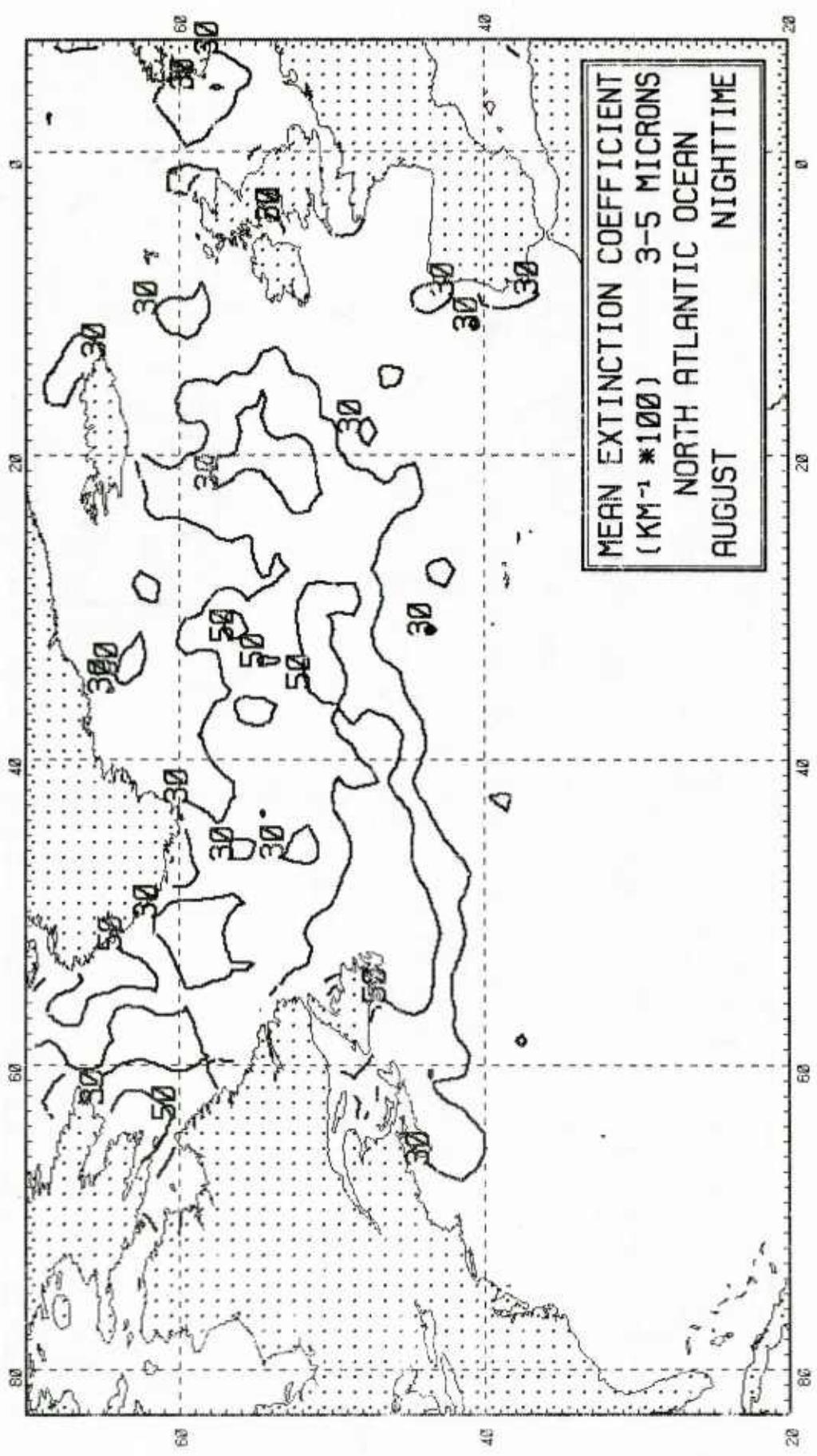


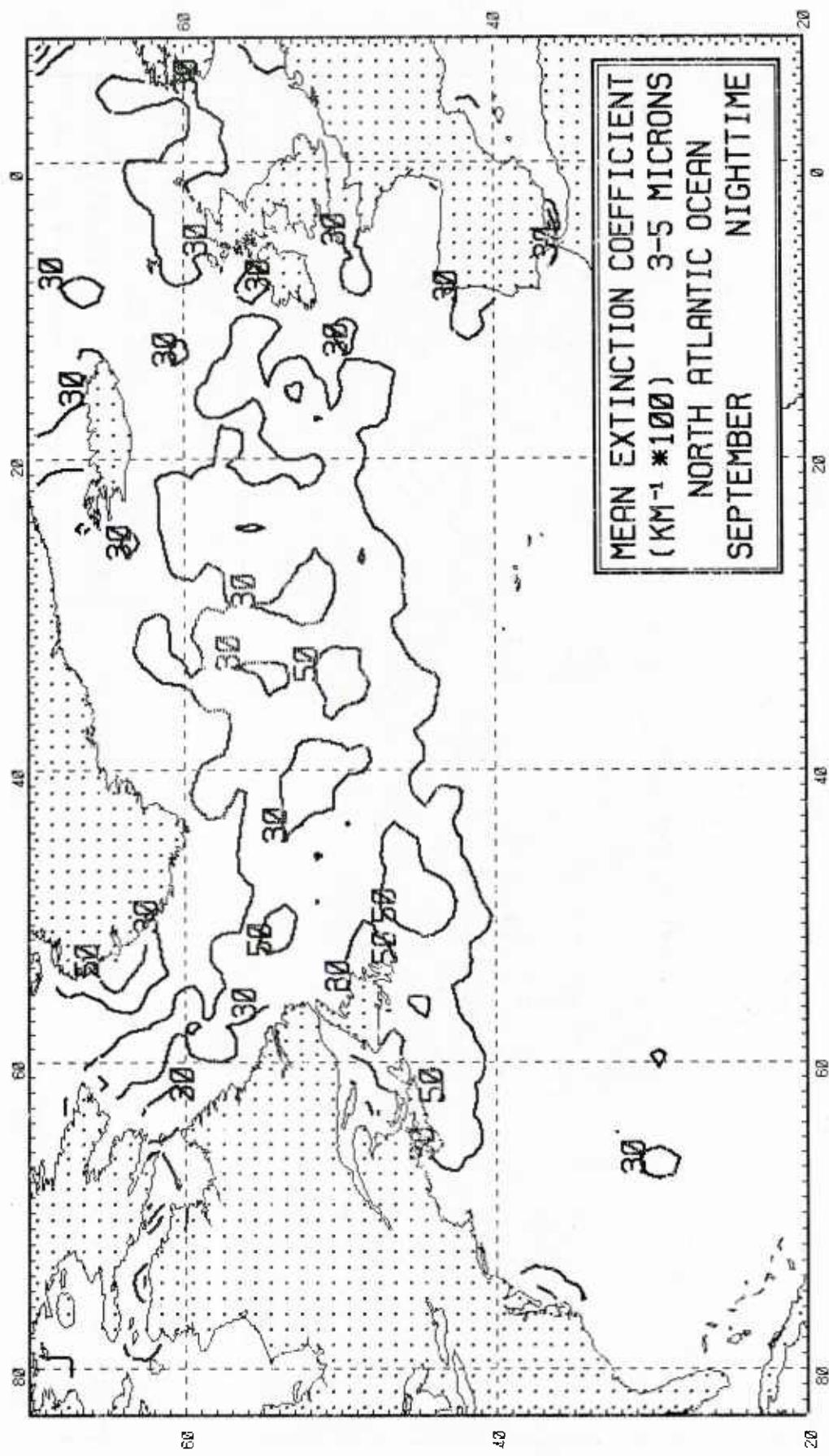


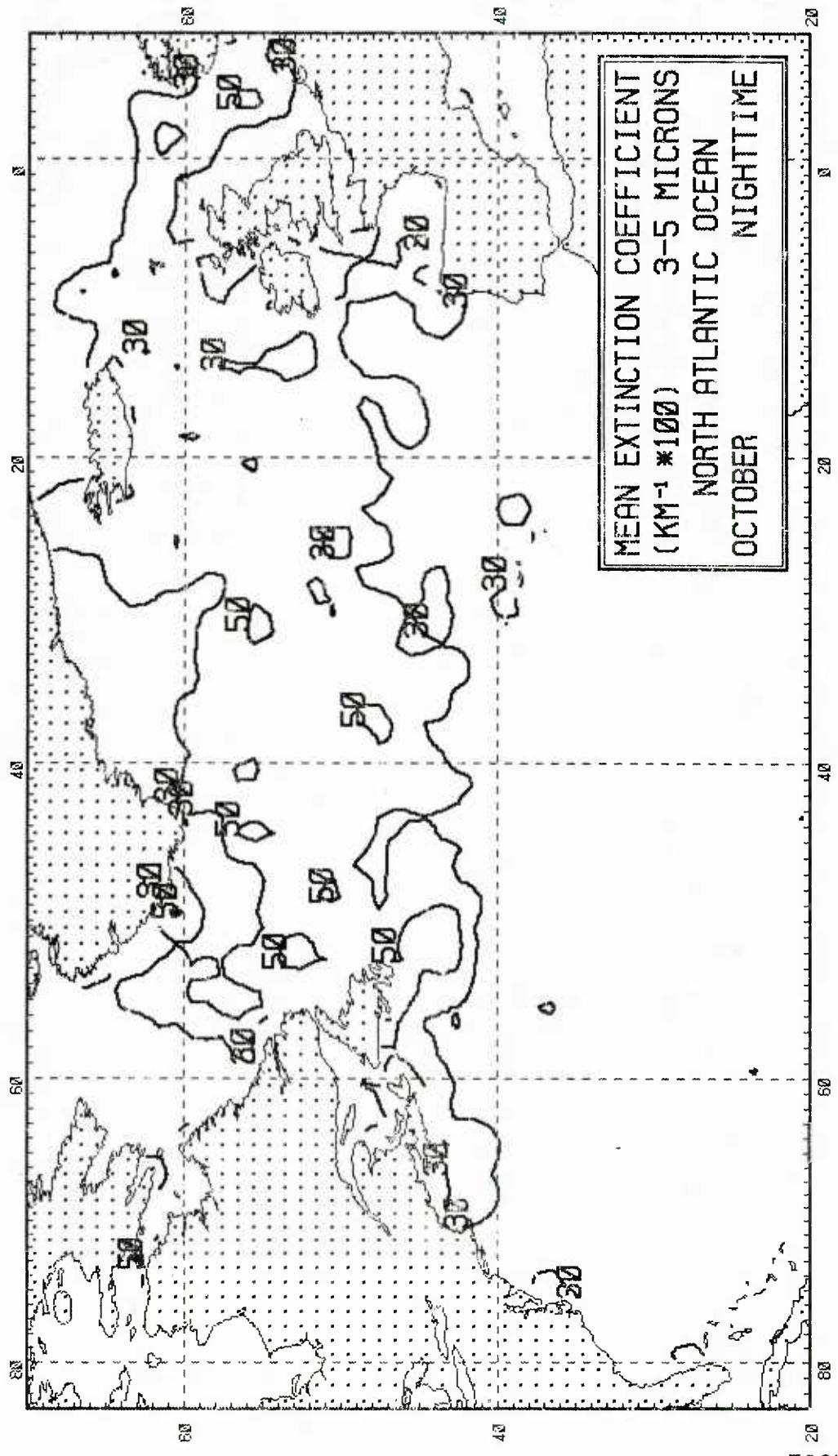


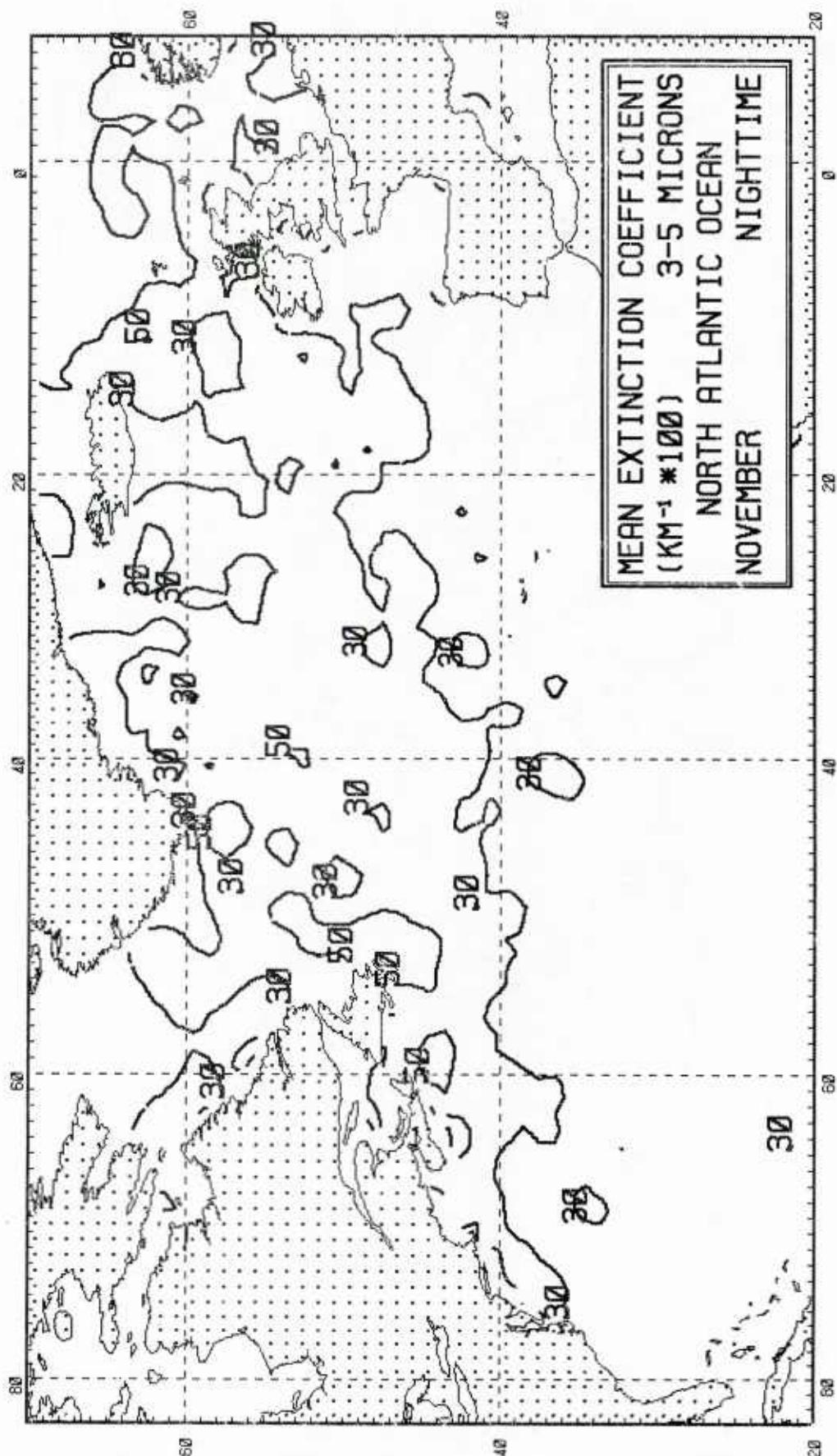


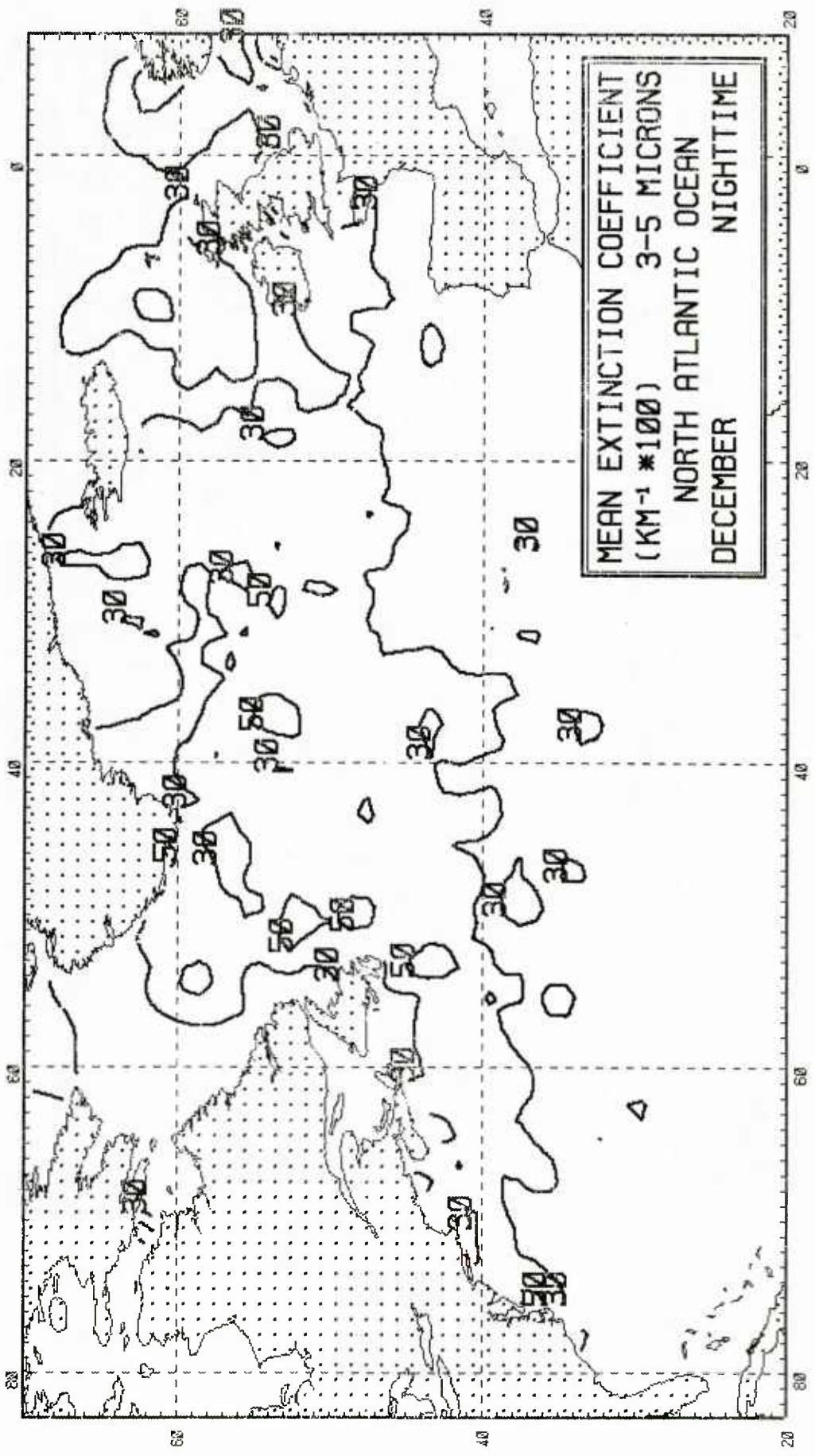












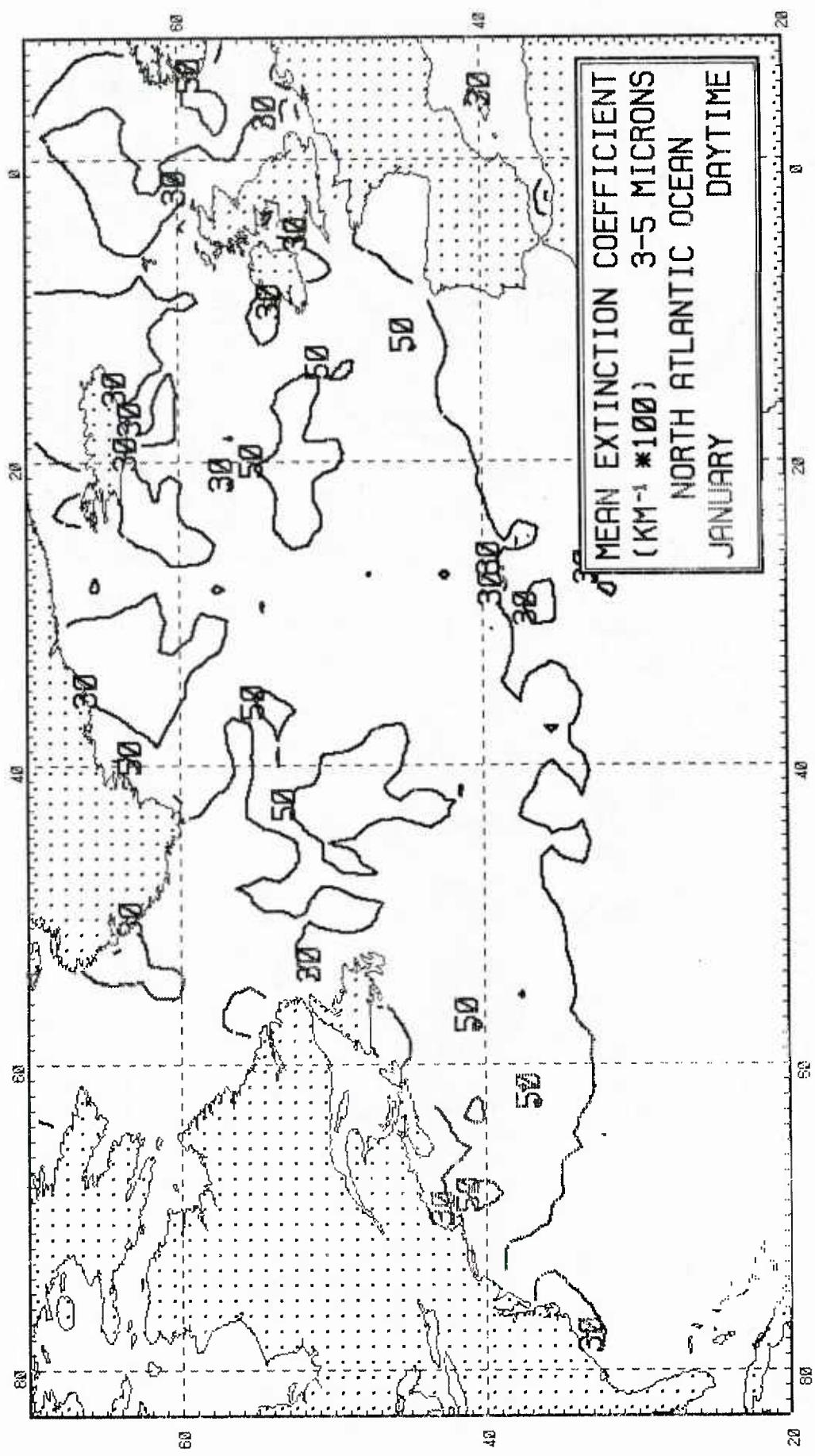
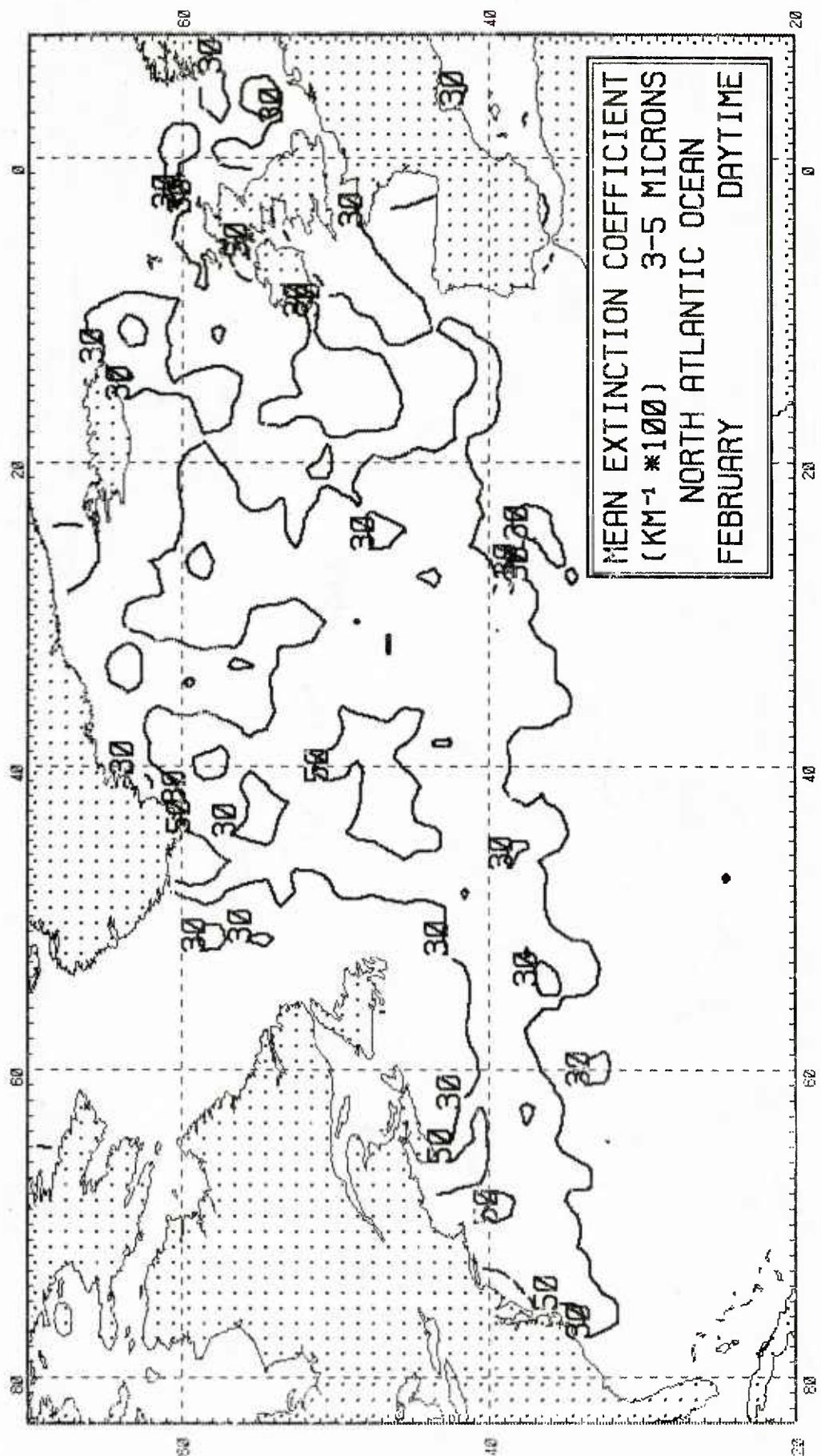
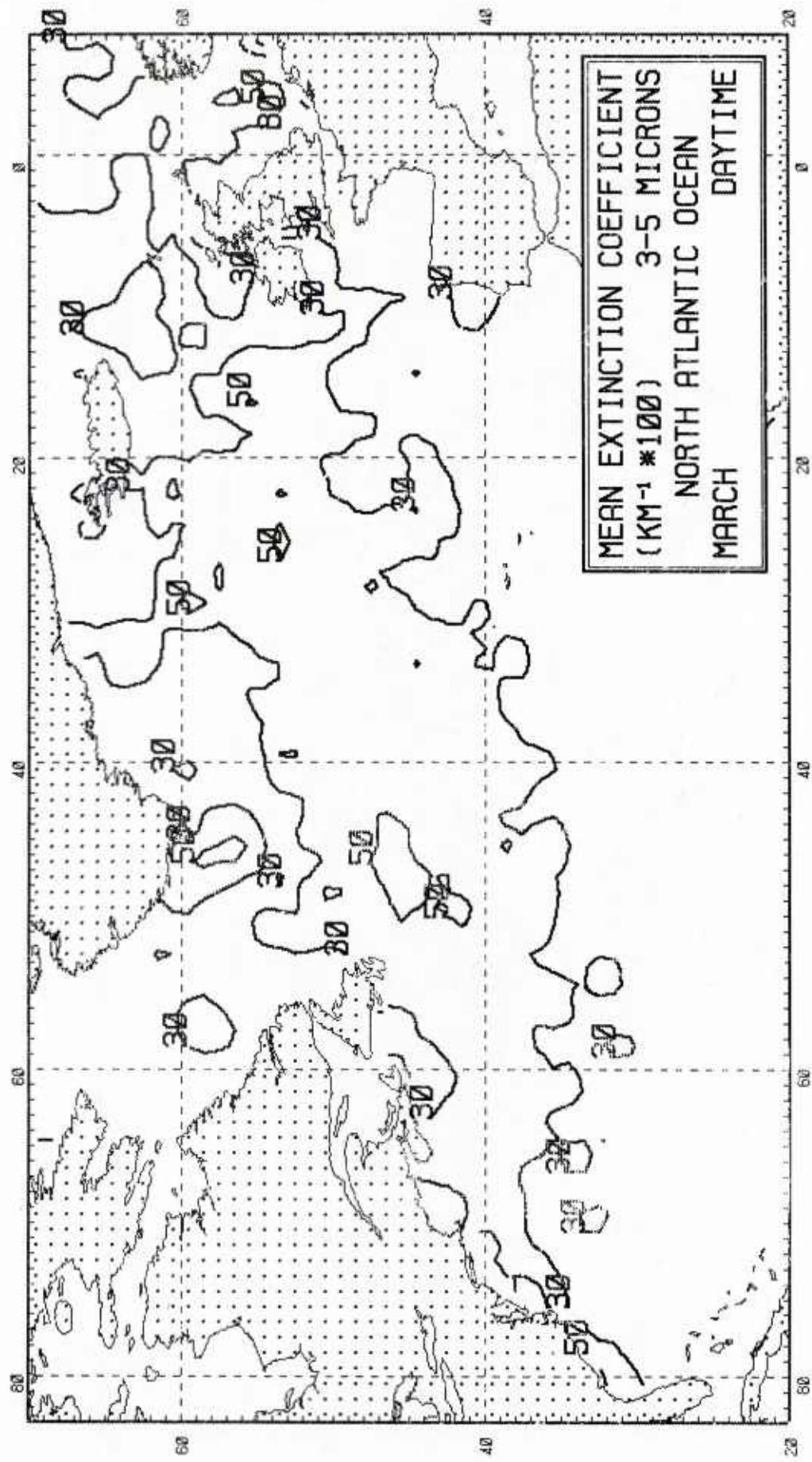
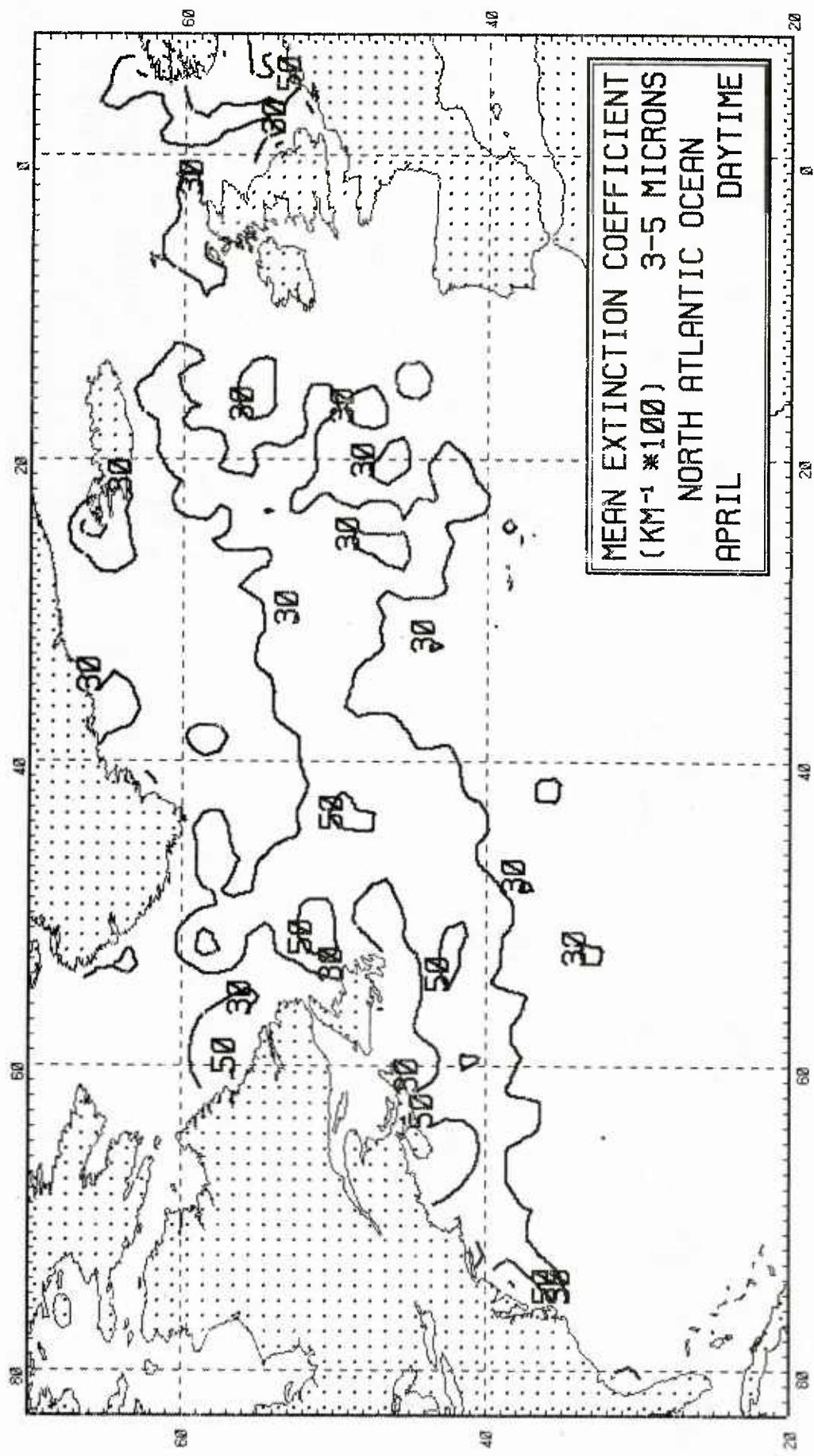
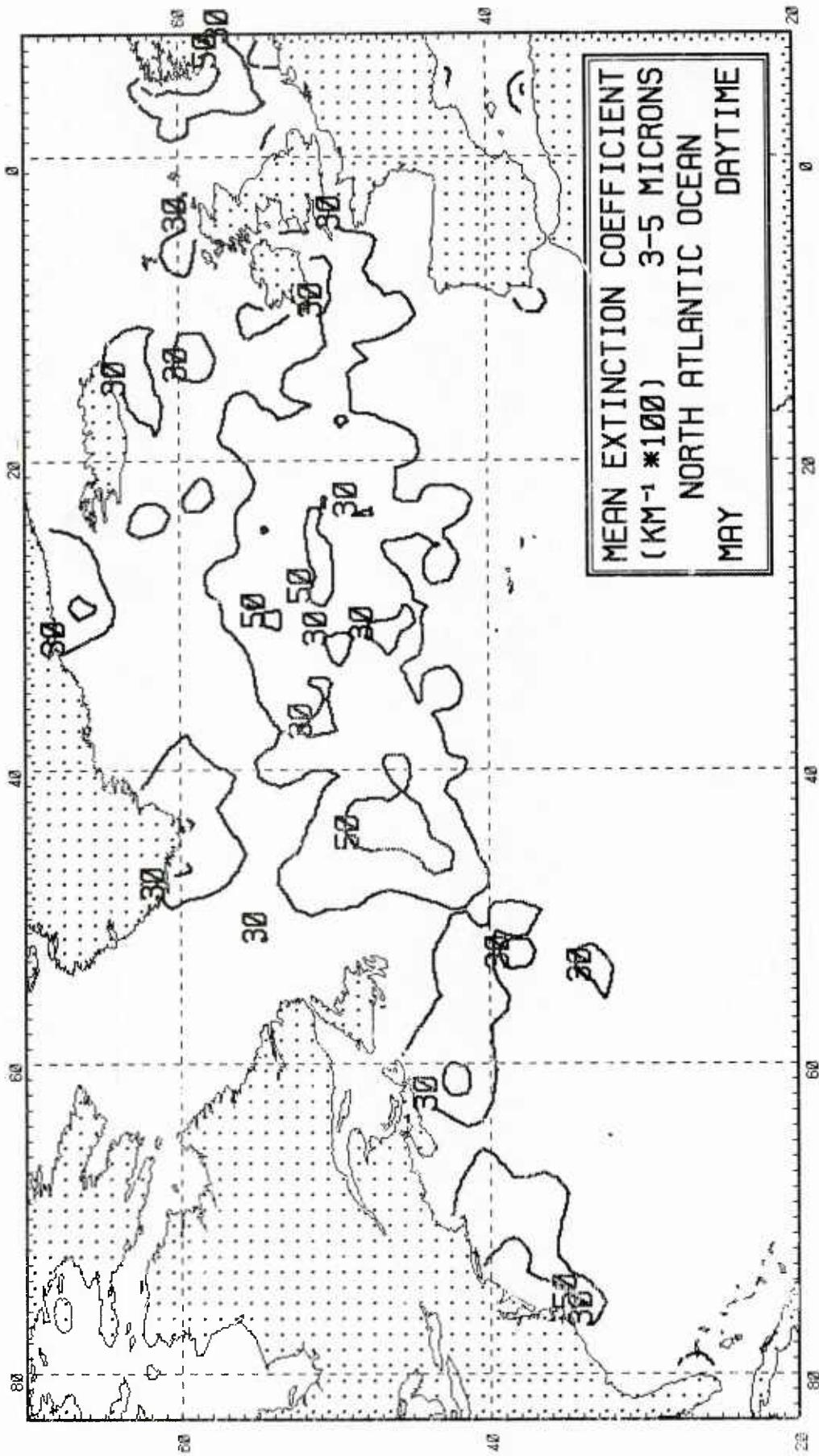


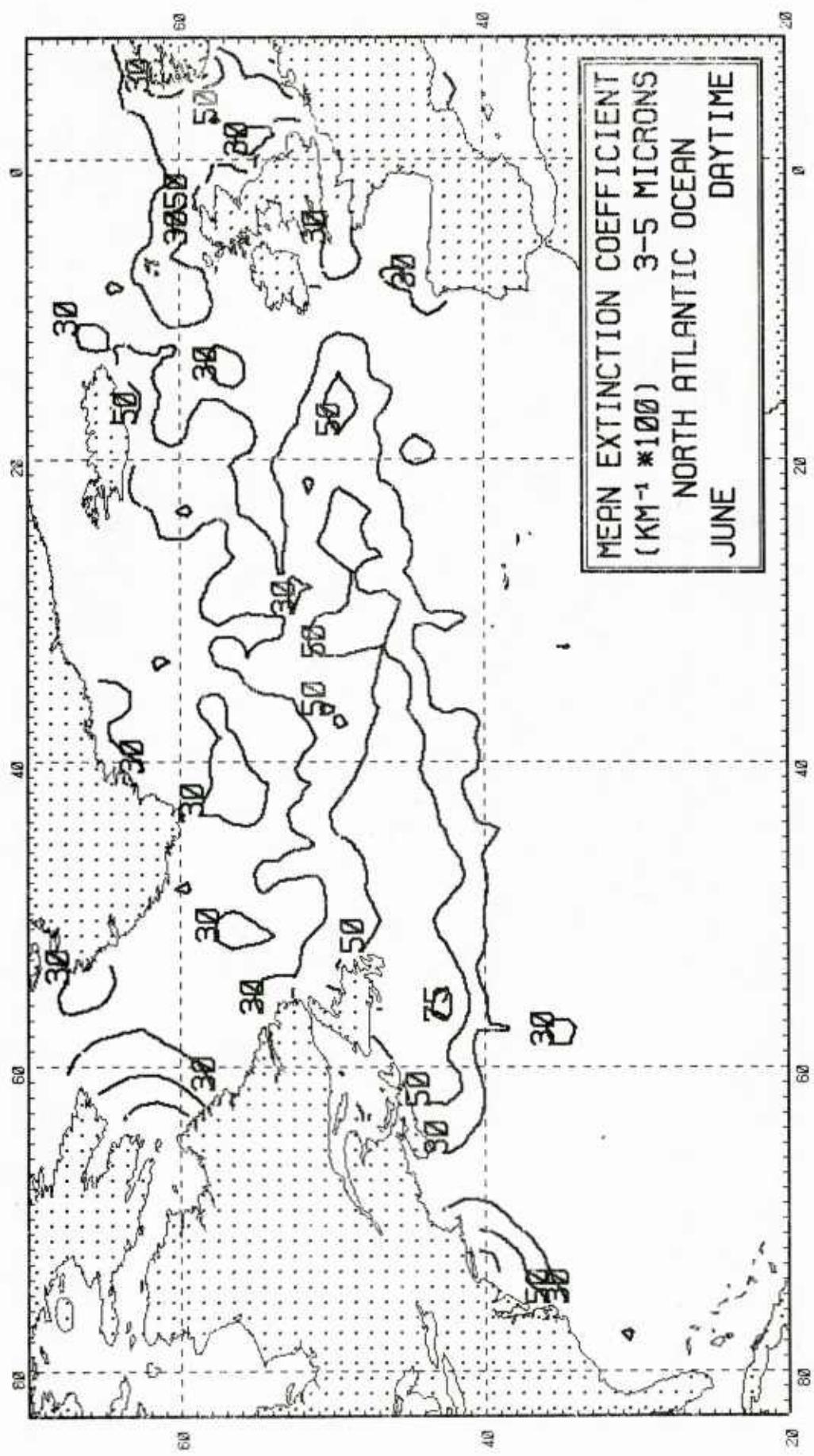
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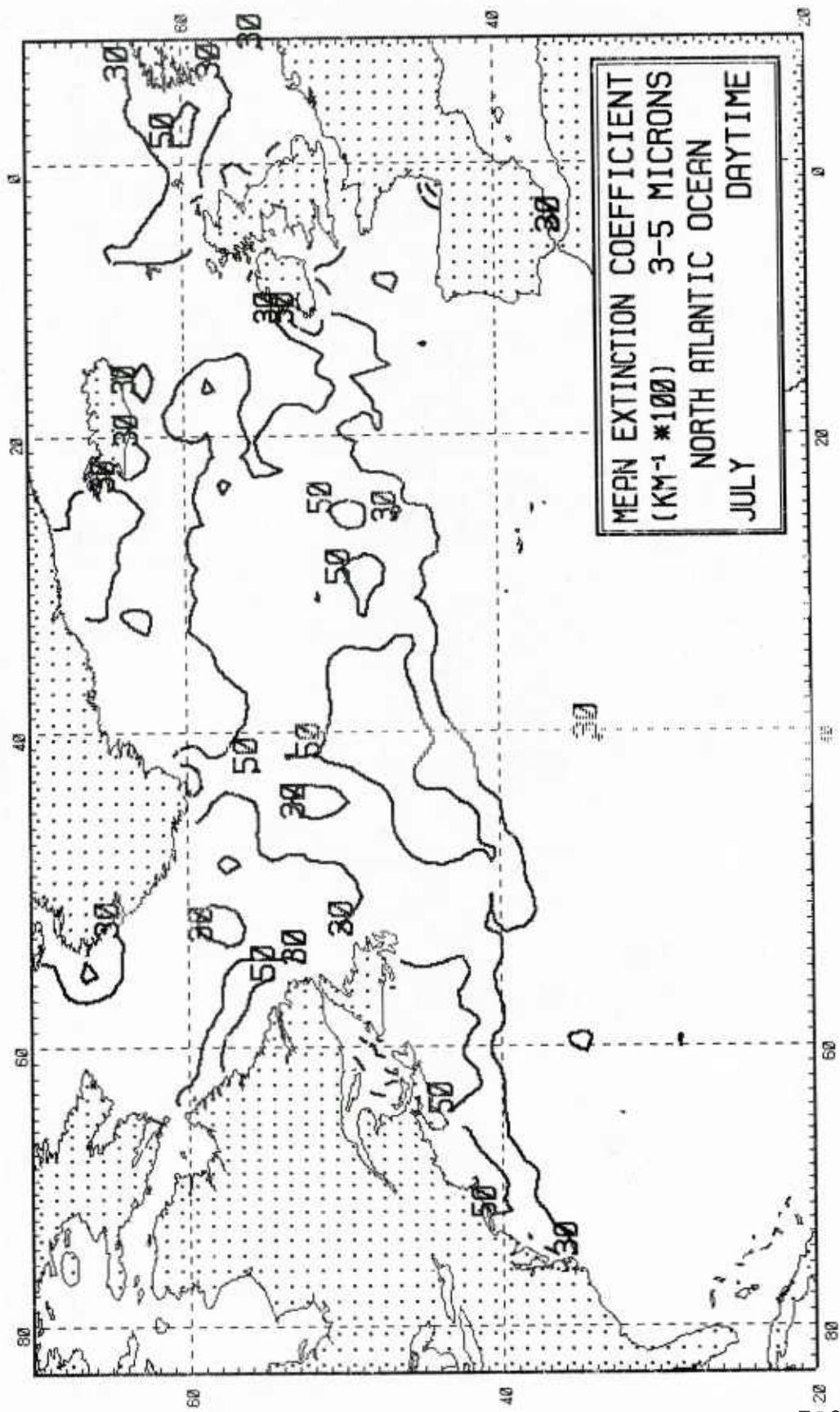


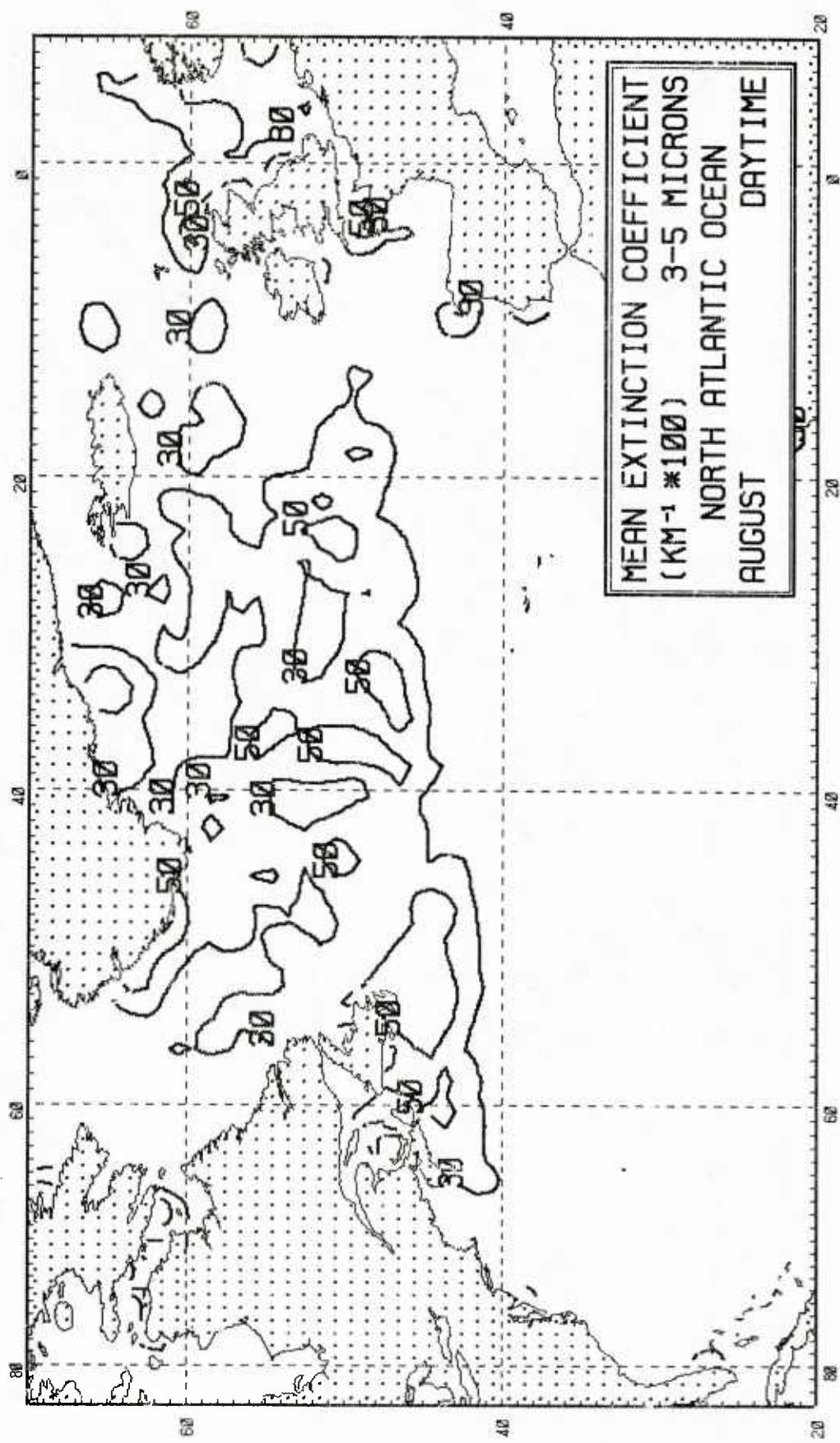












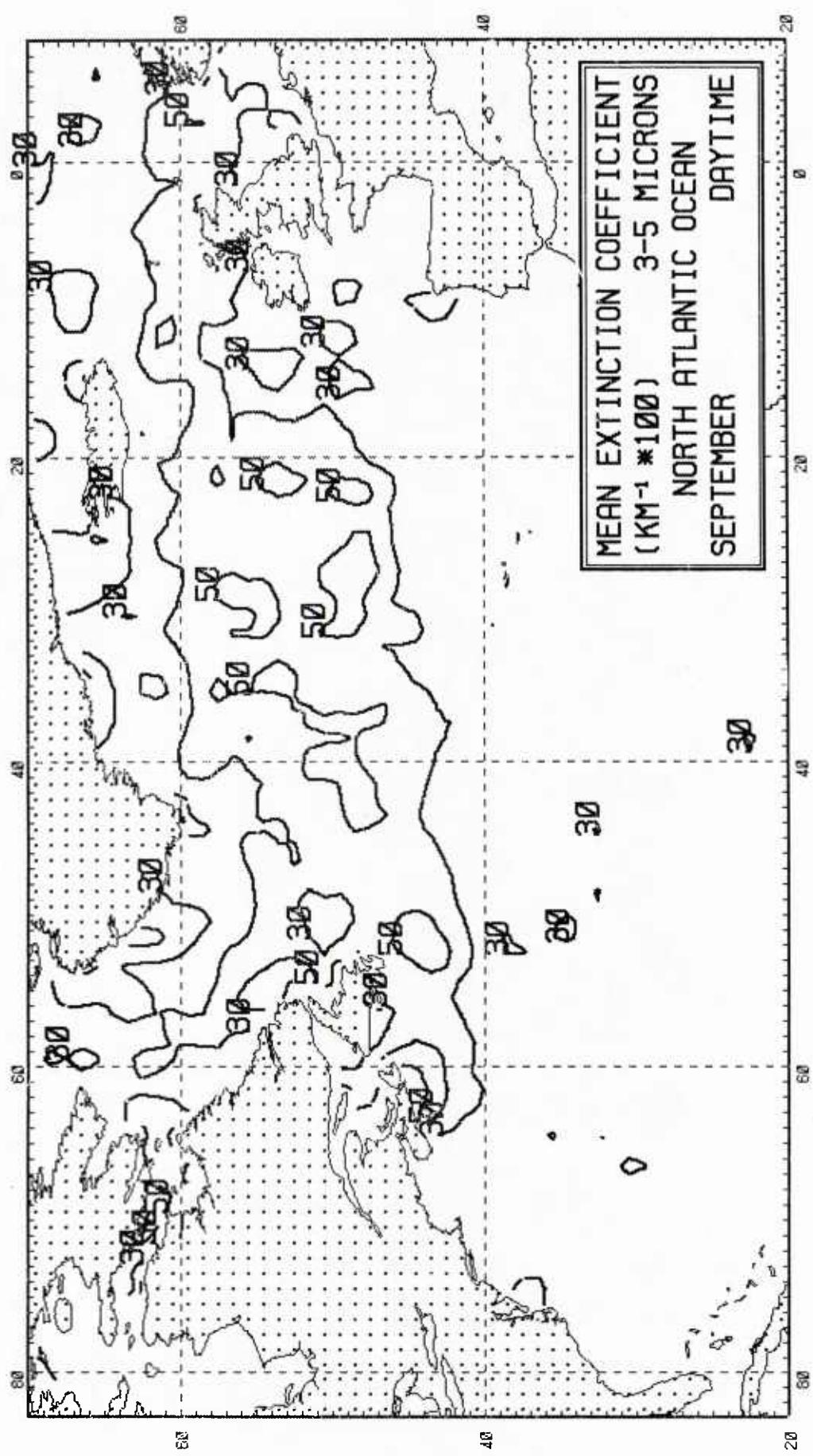
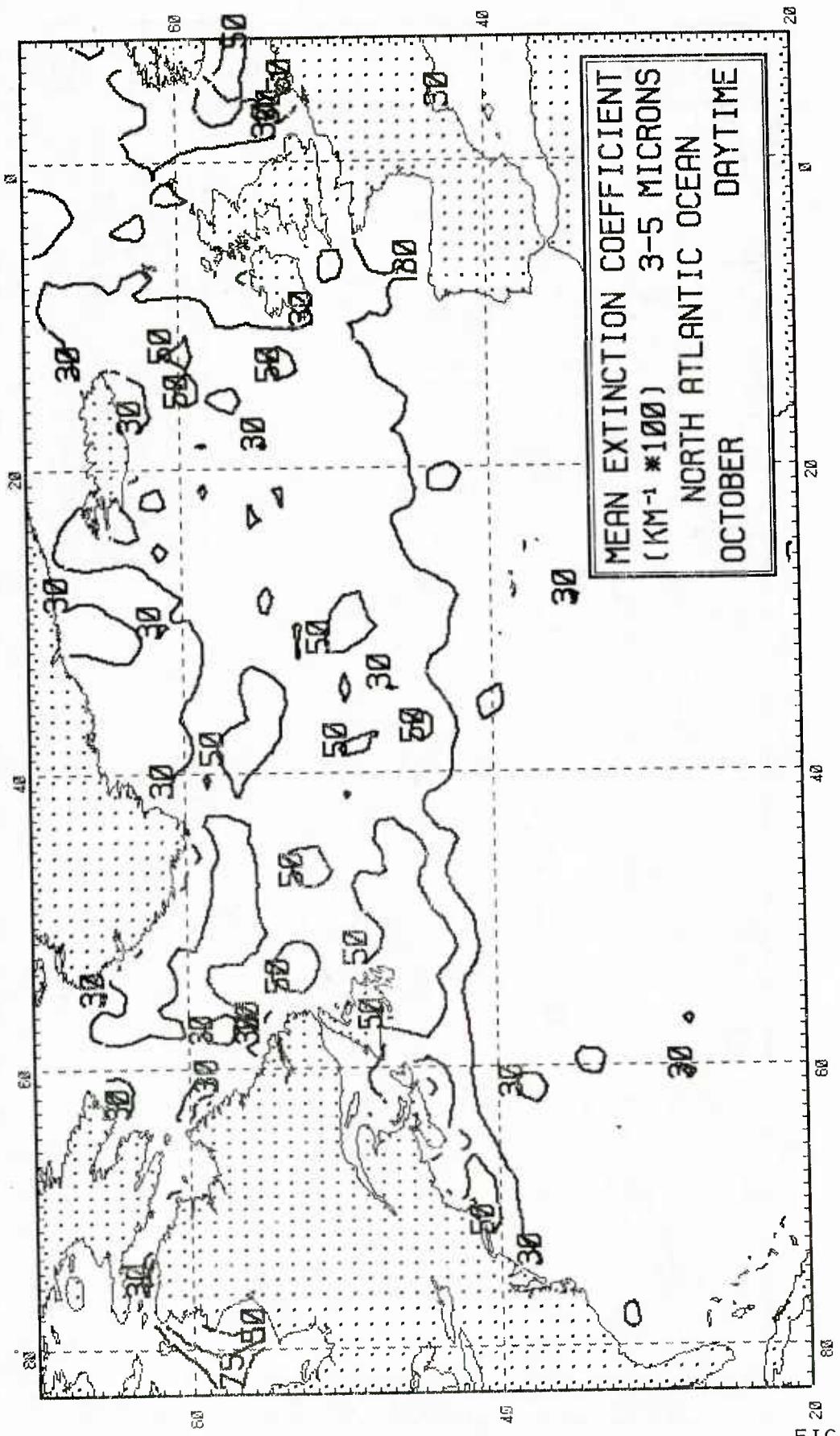


FIGURE 33



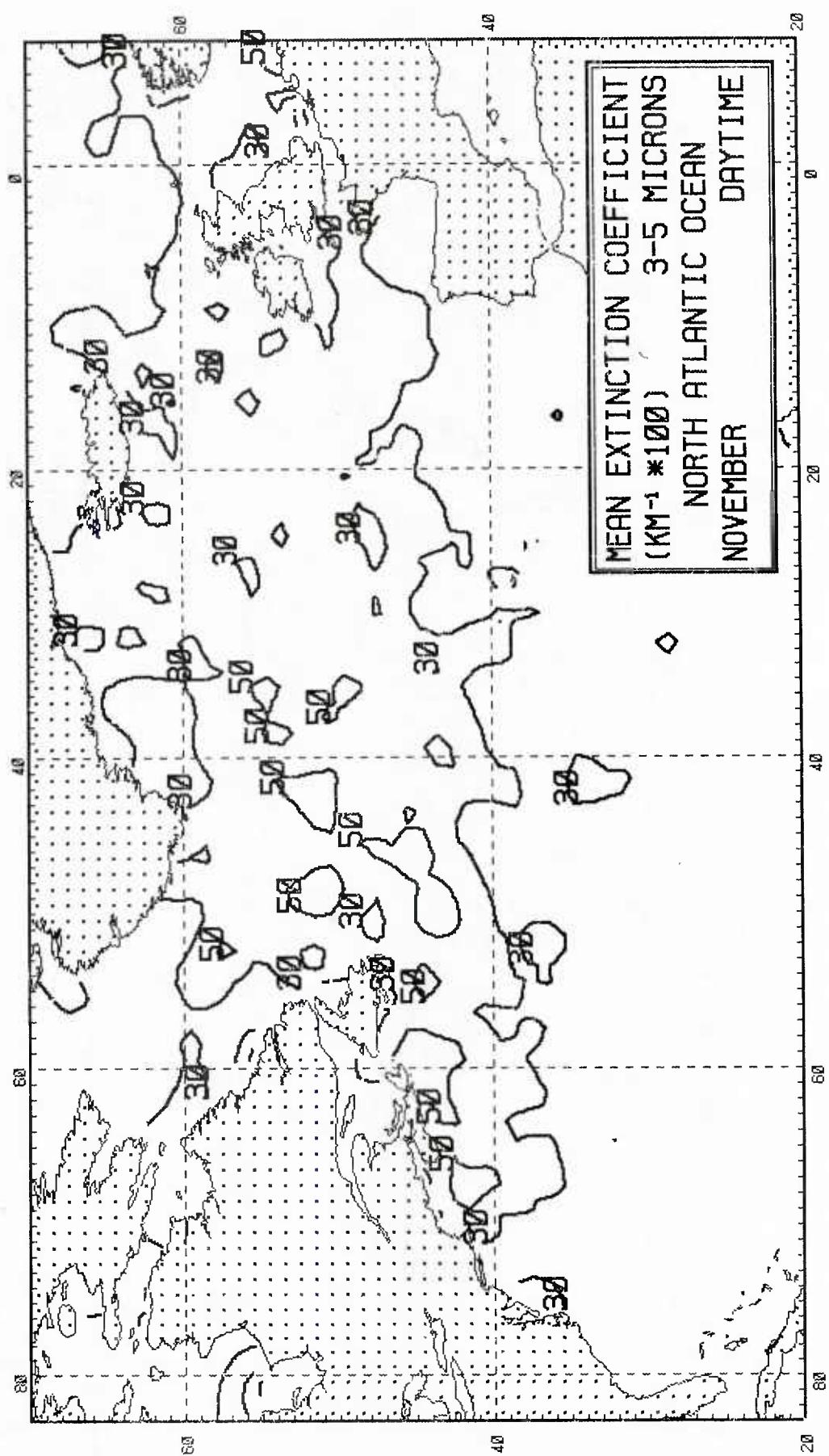
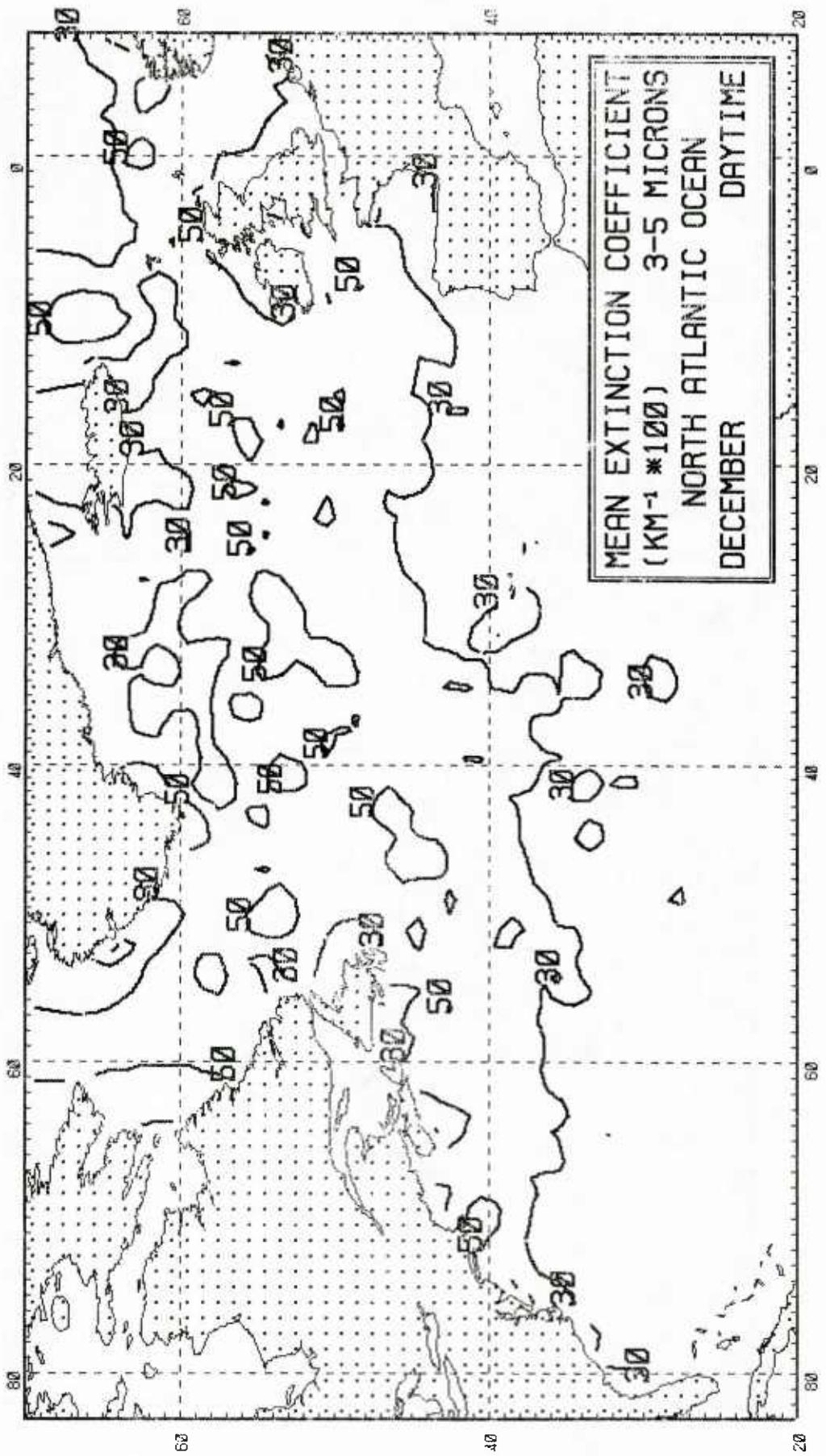
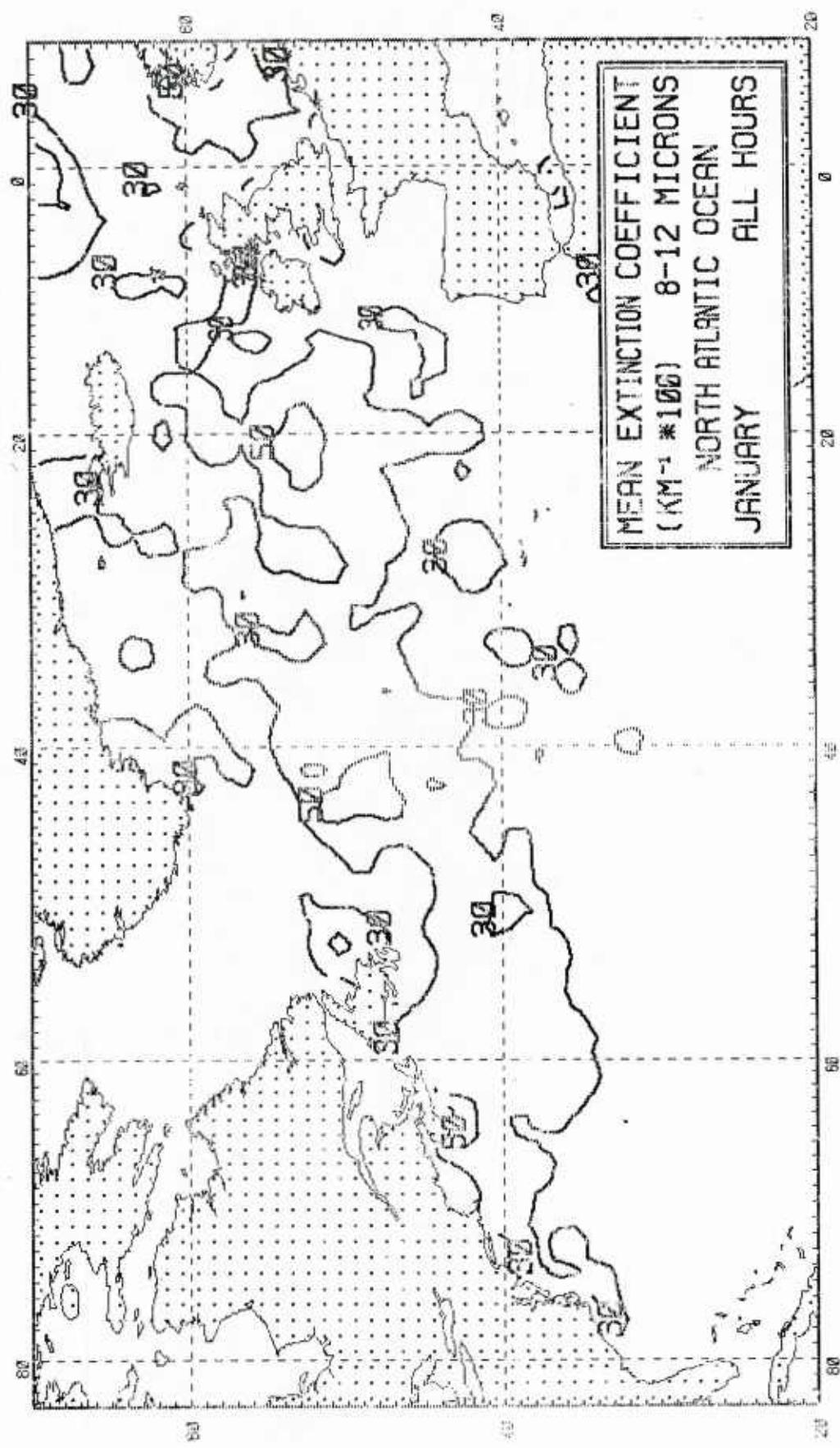
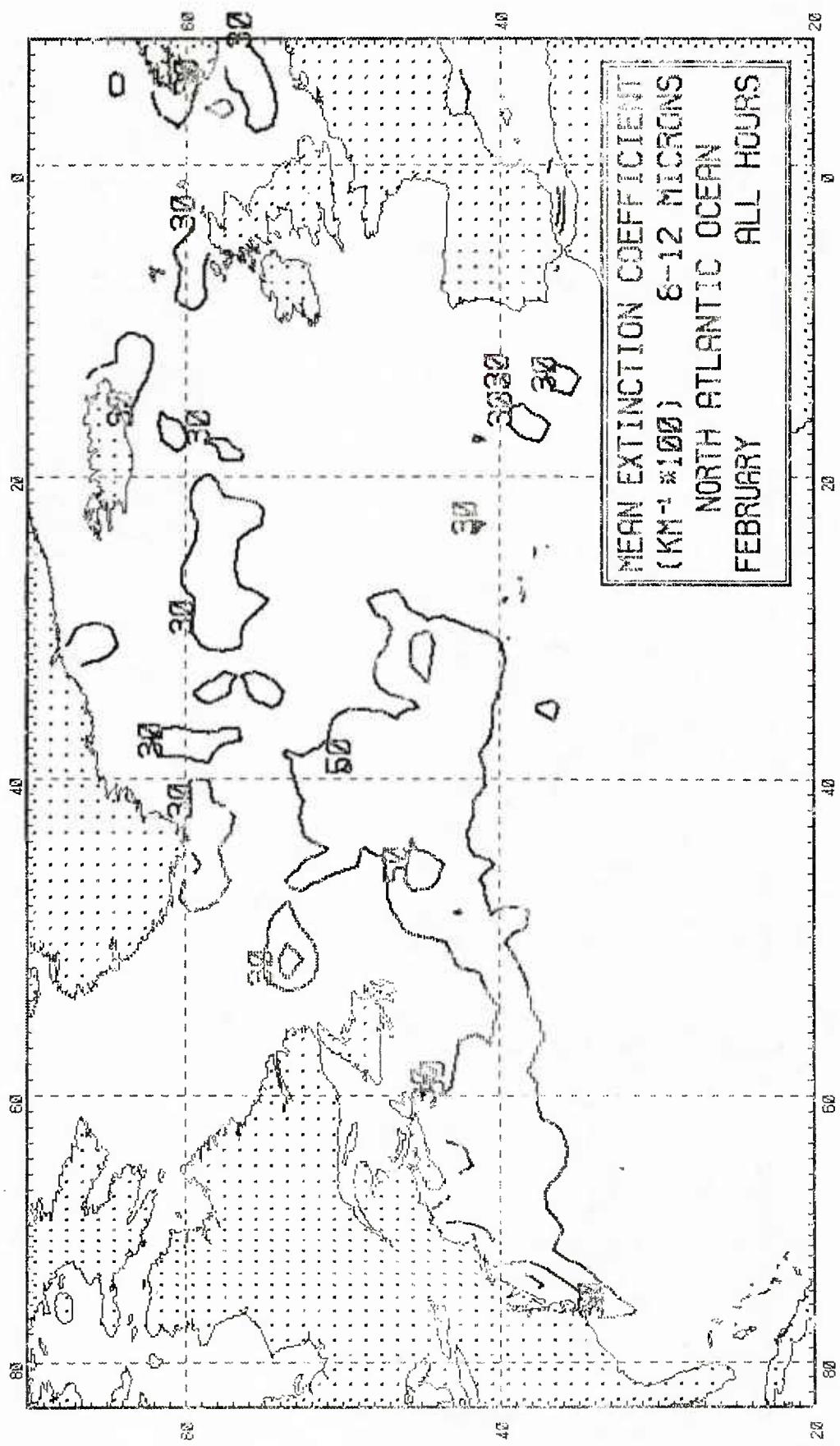


FIGURE 35







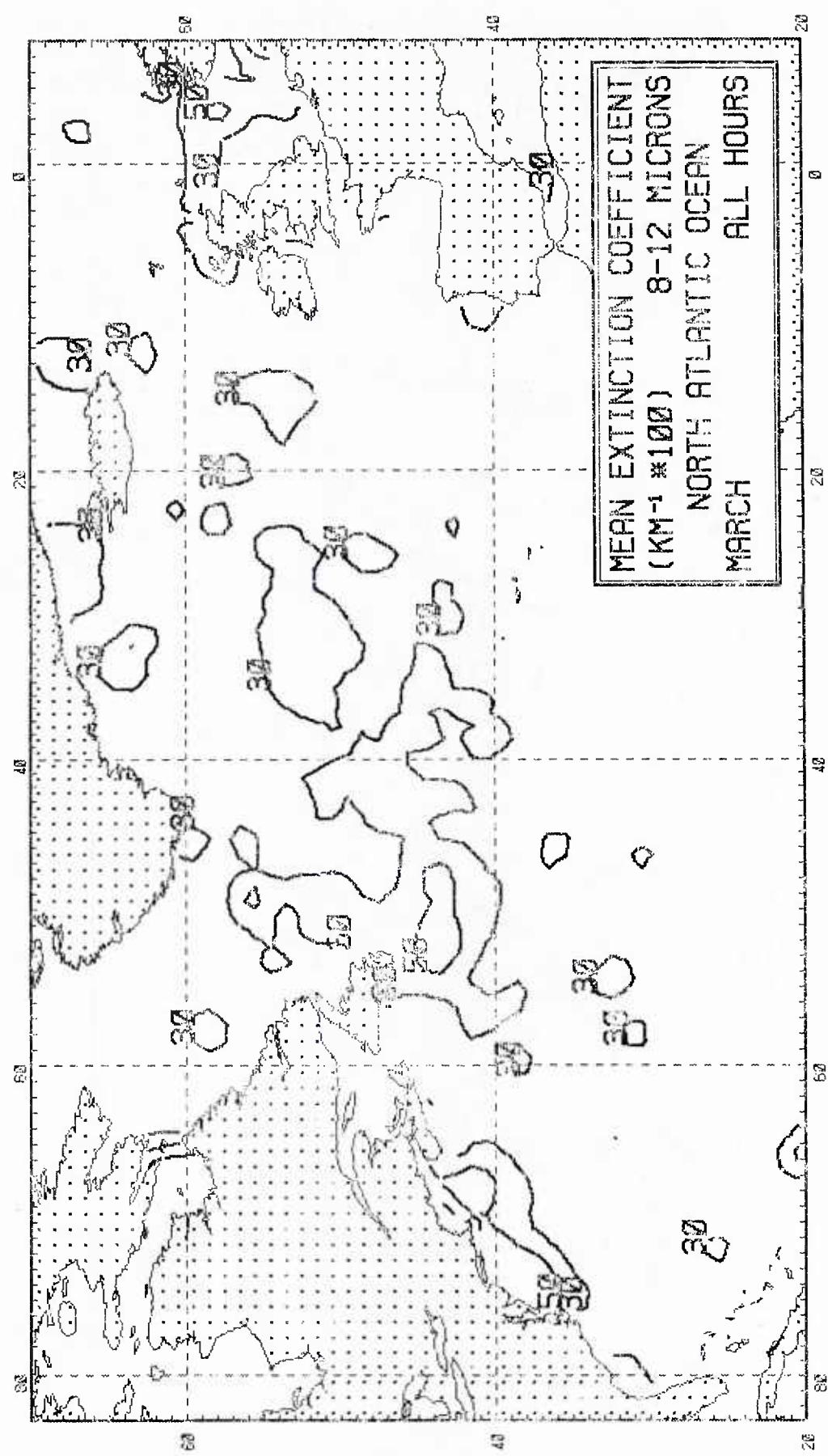


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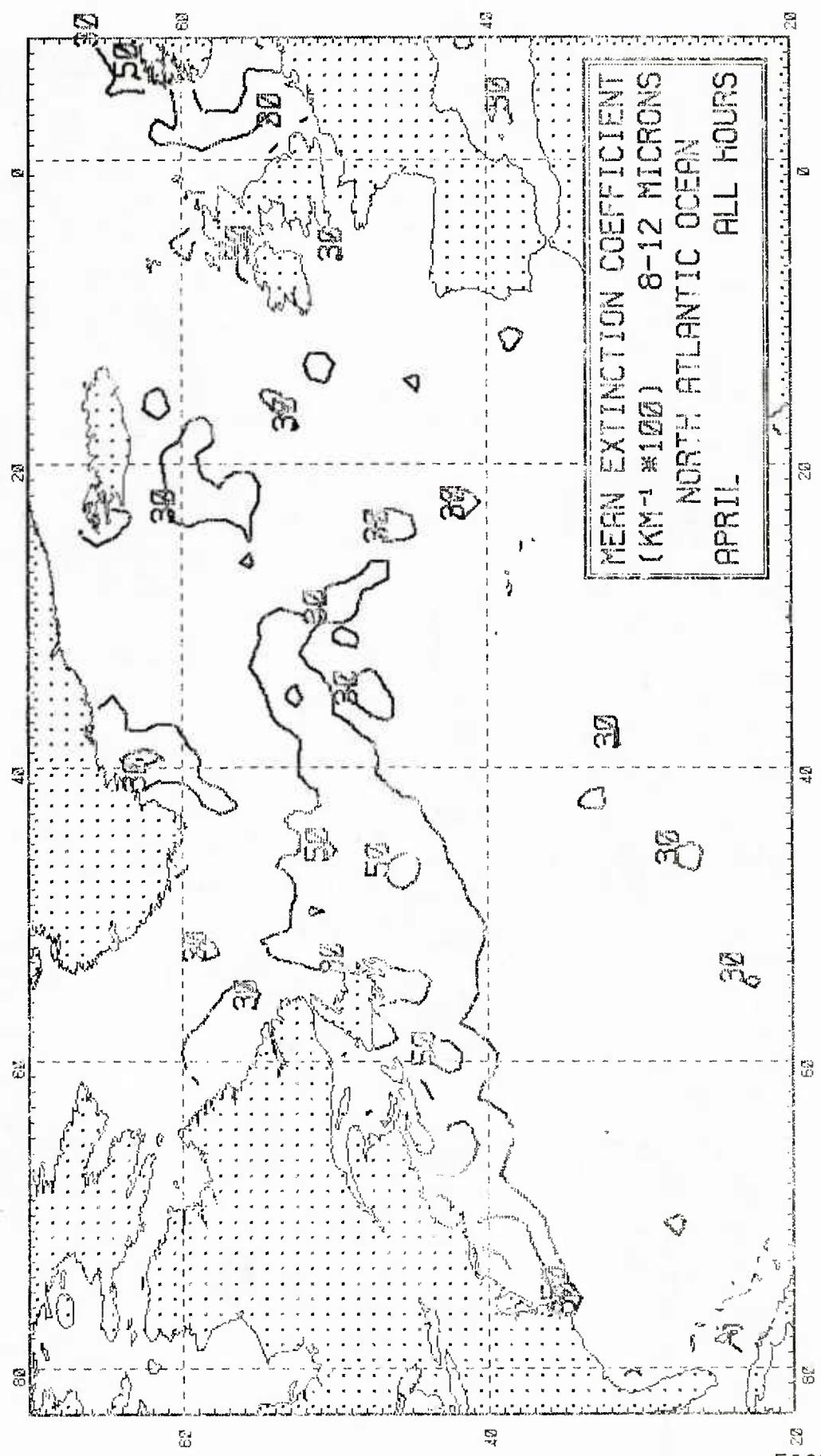


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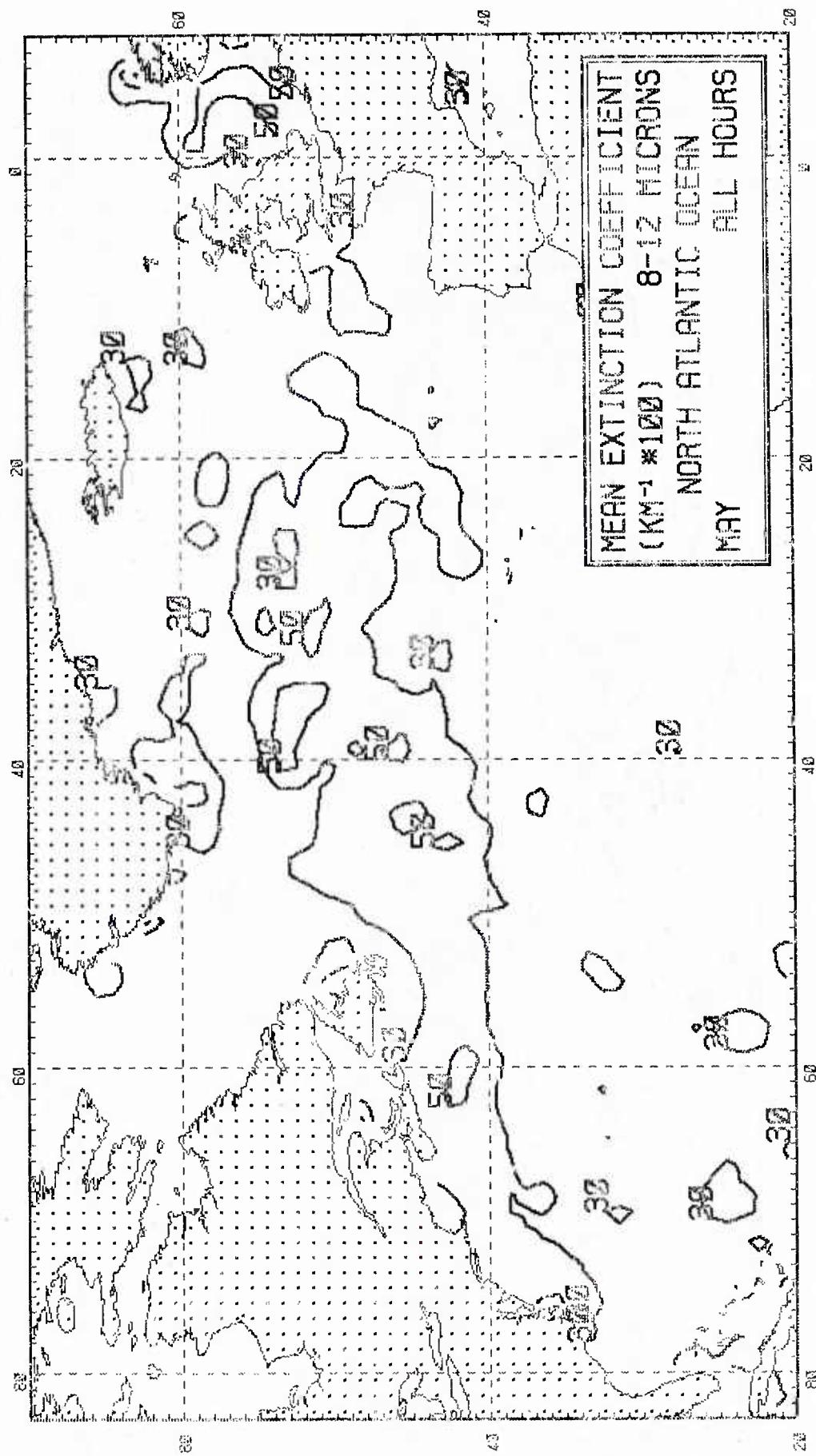


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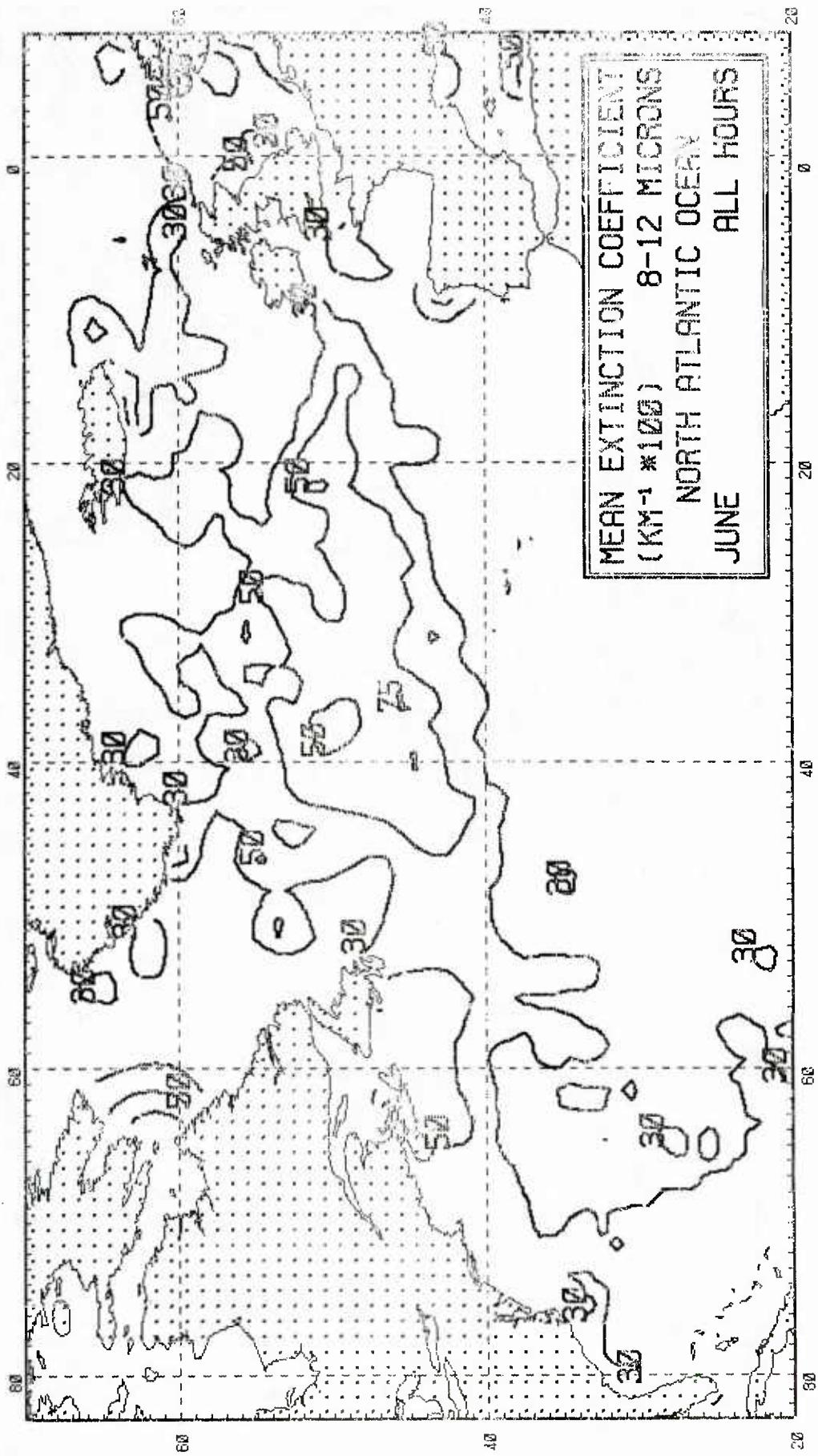
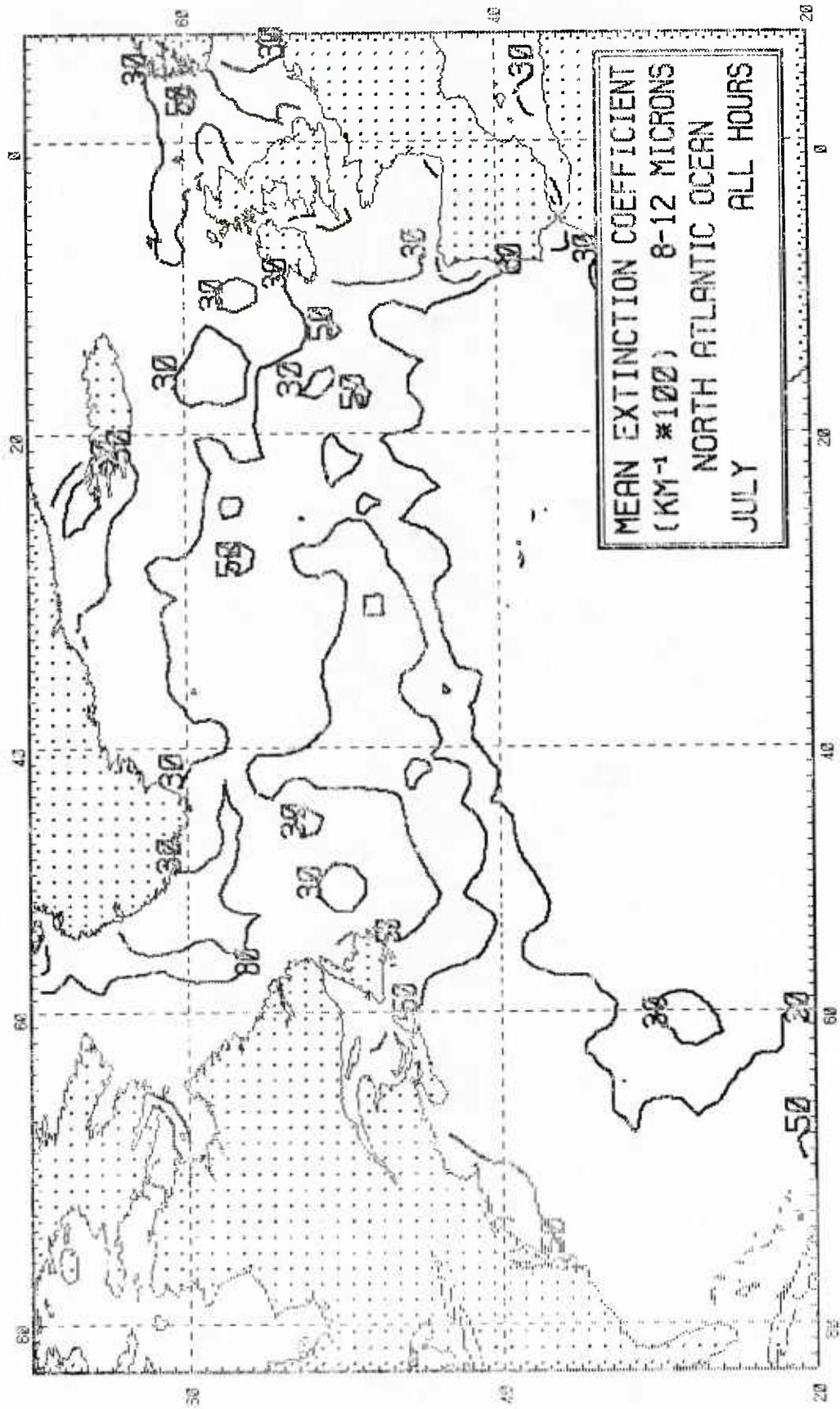
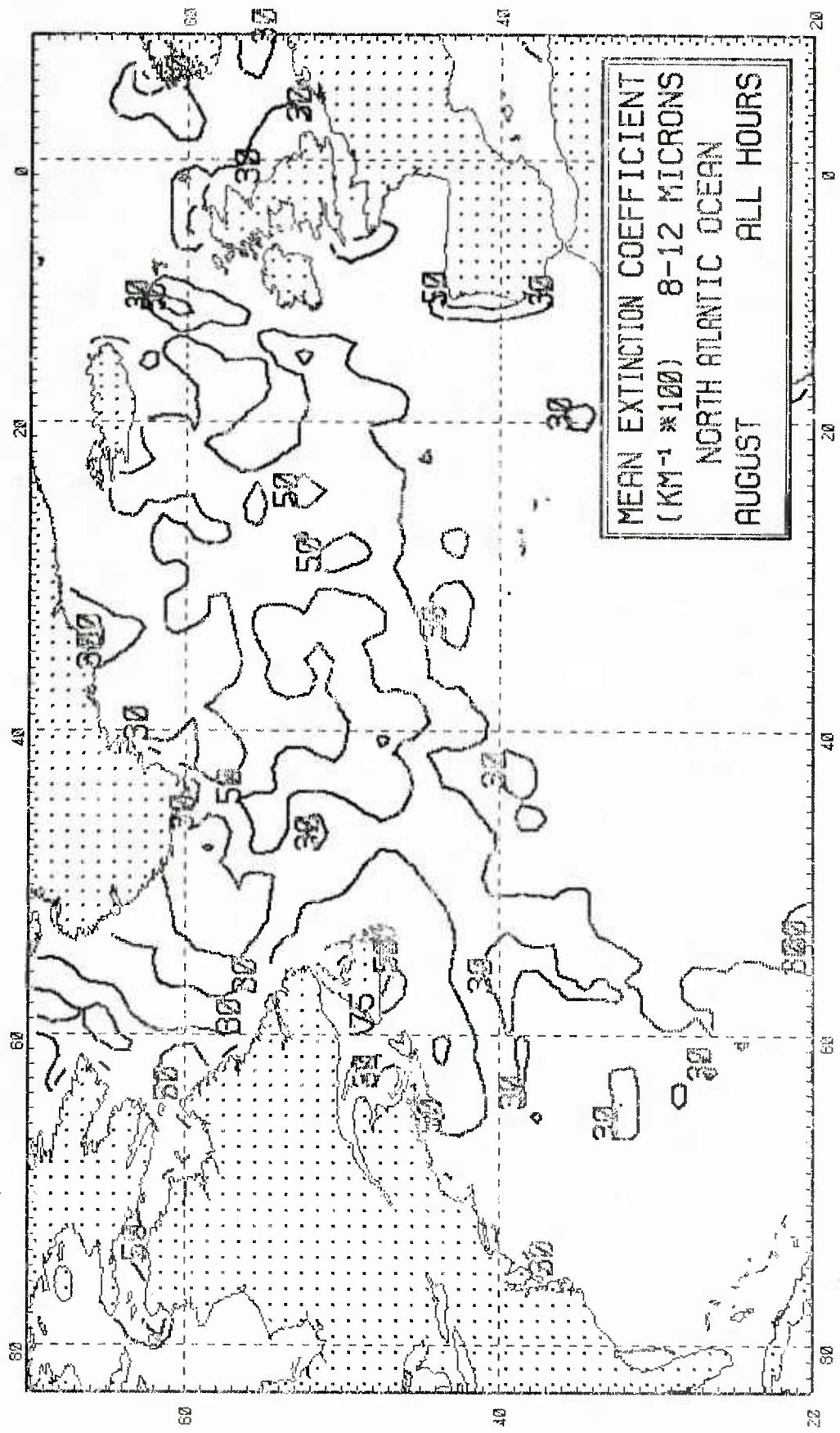
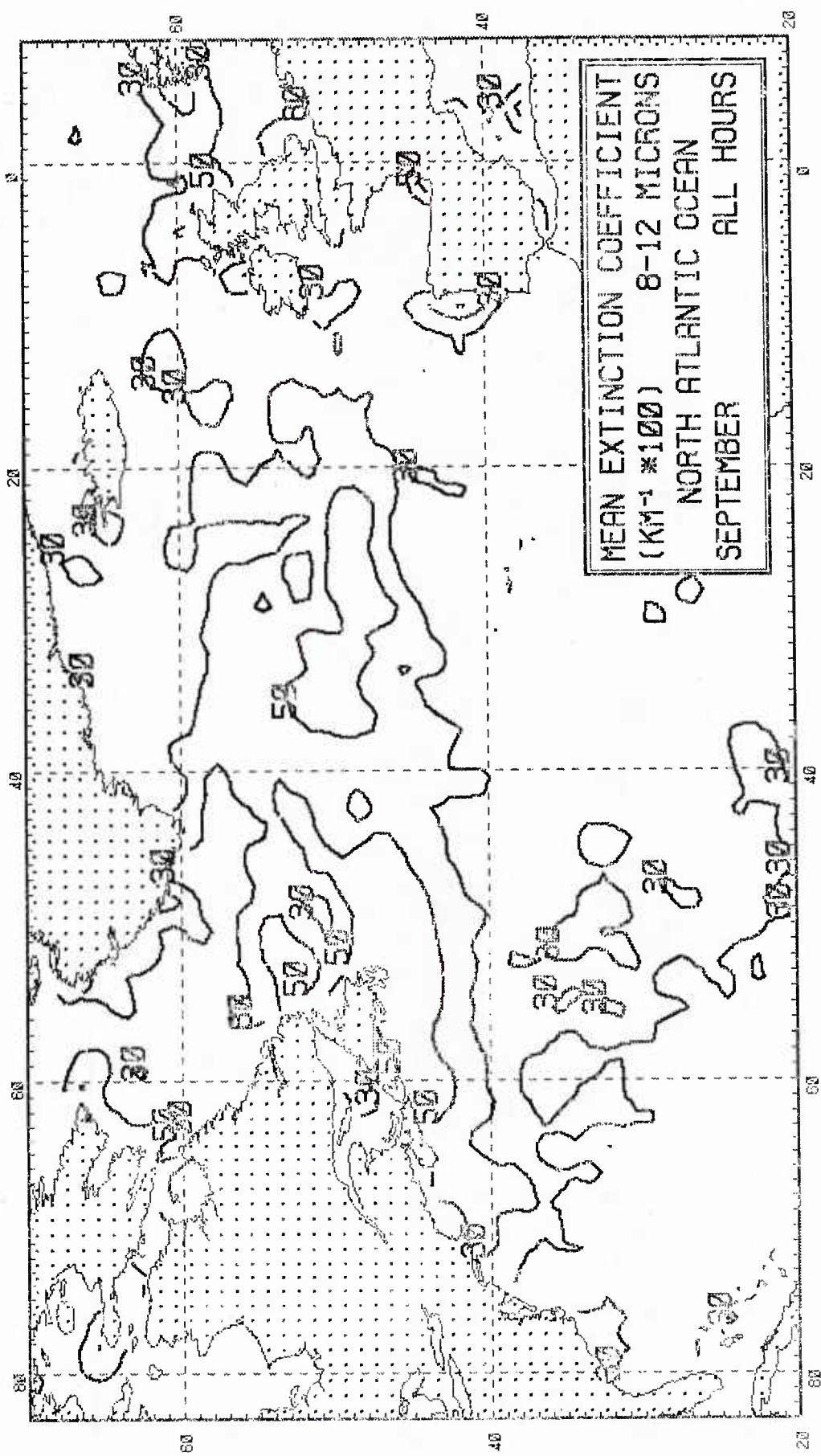
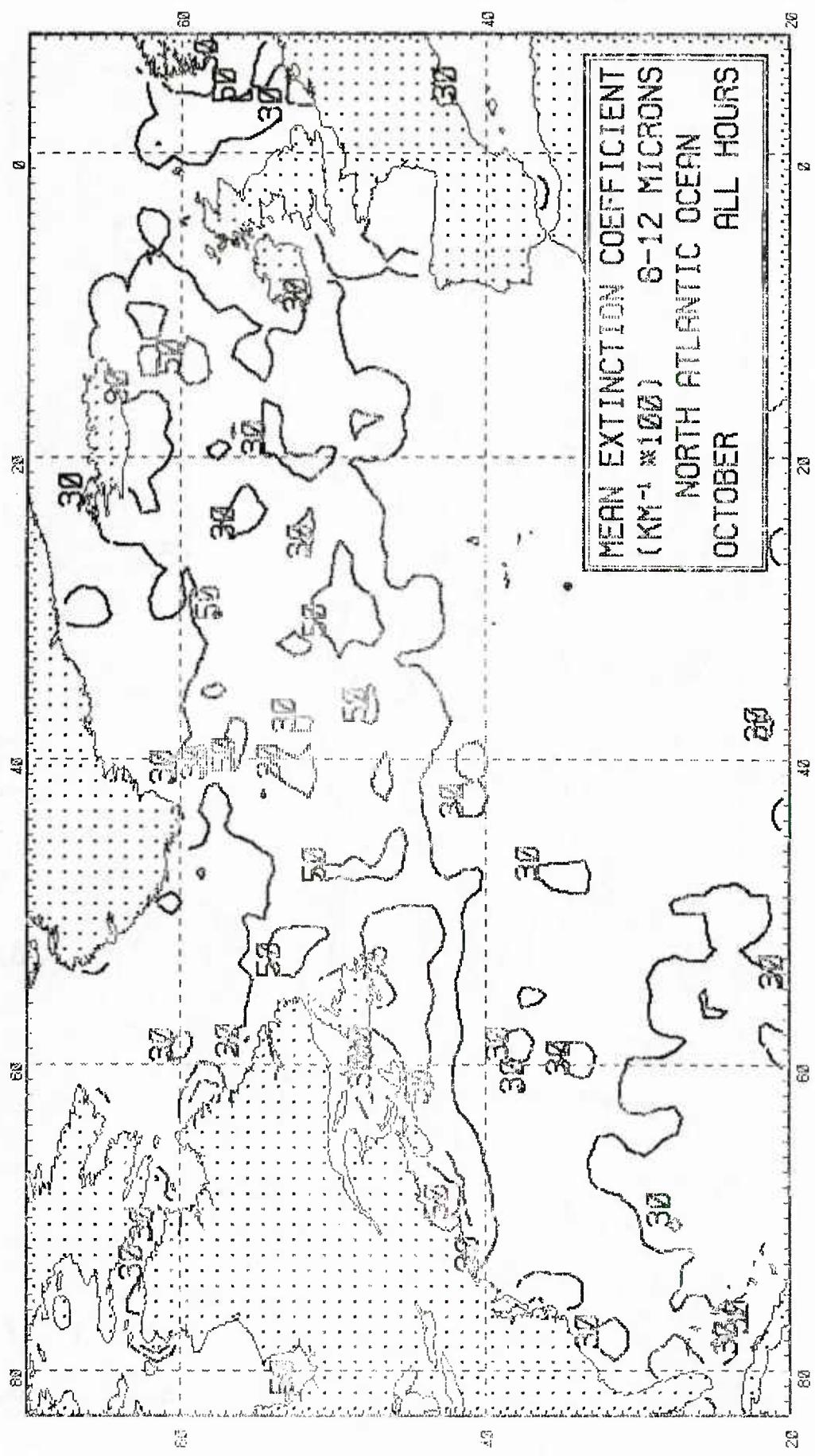


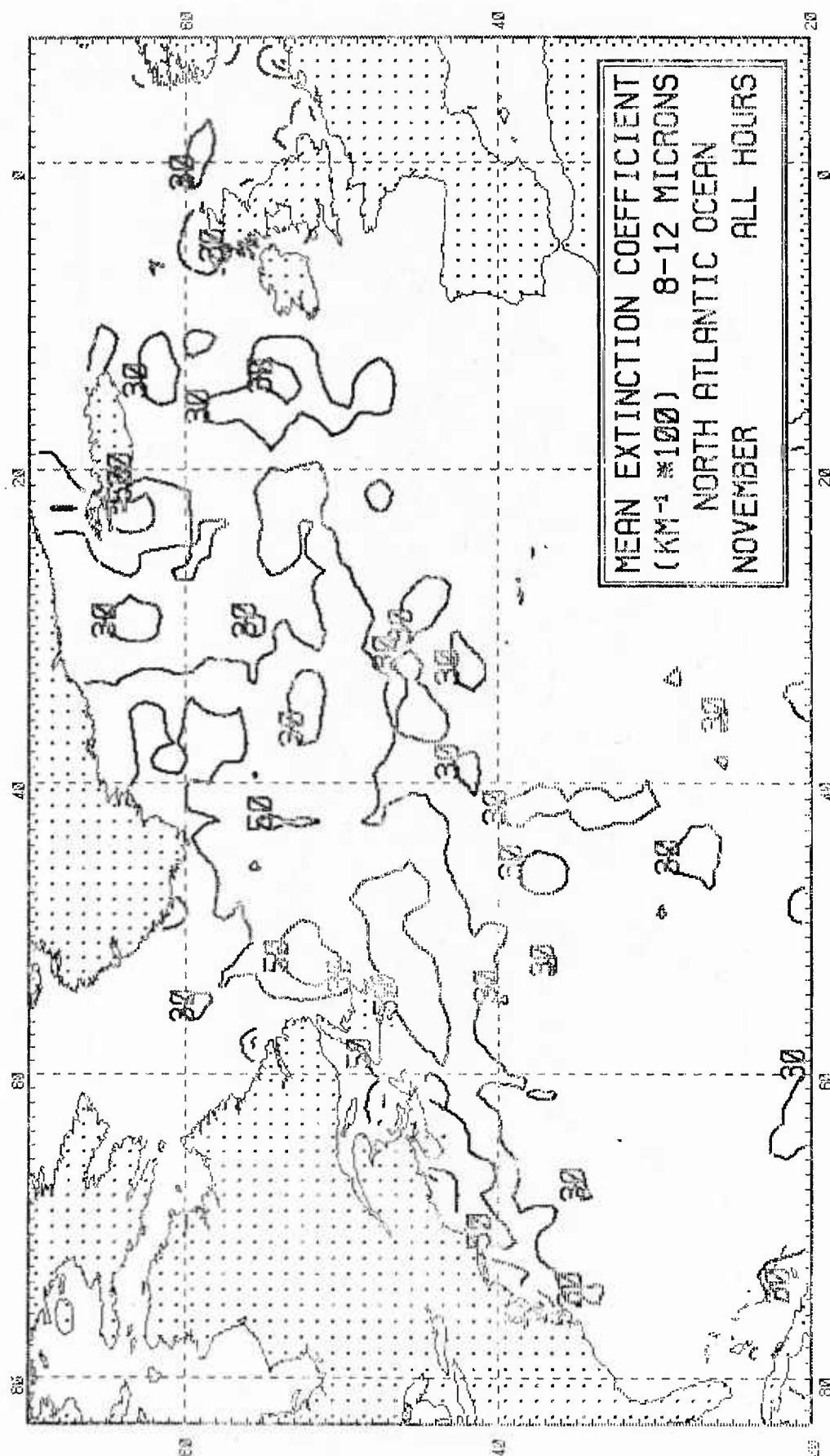
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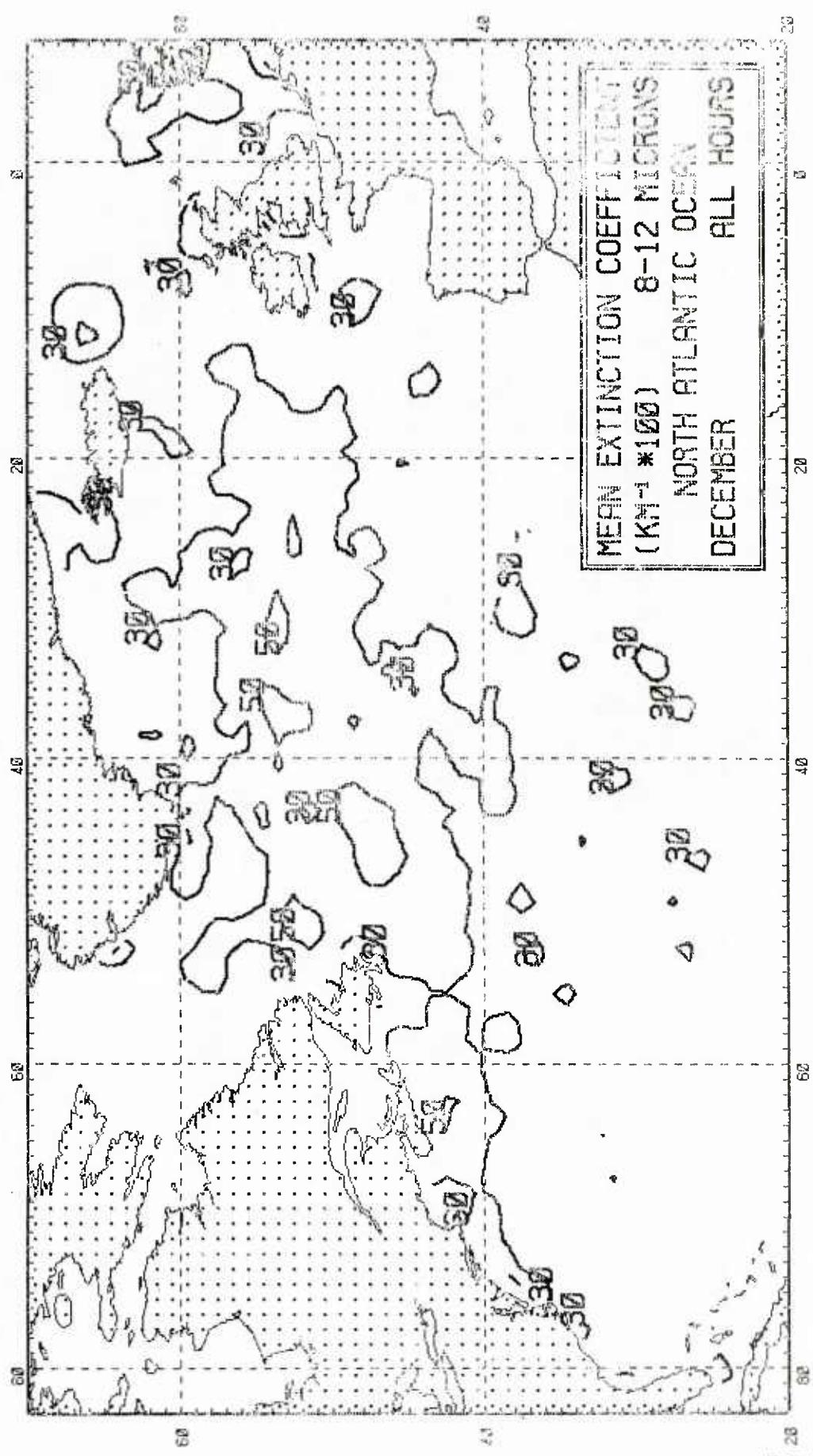


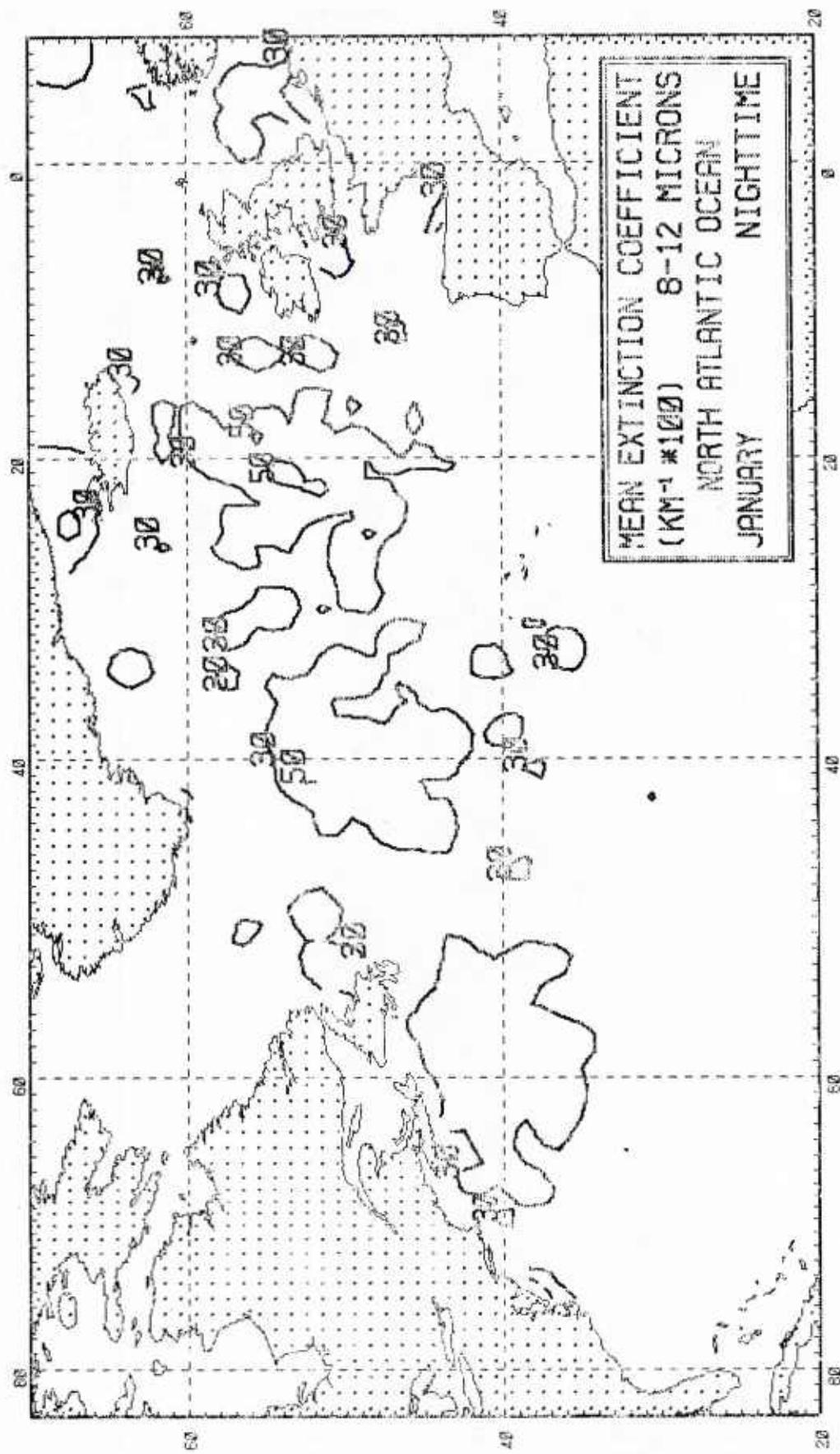


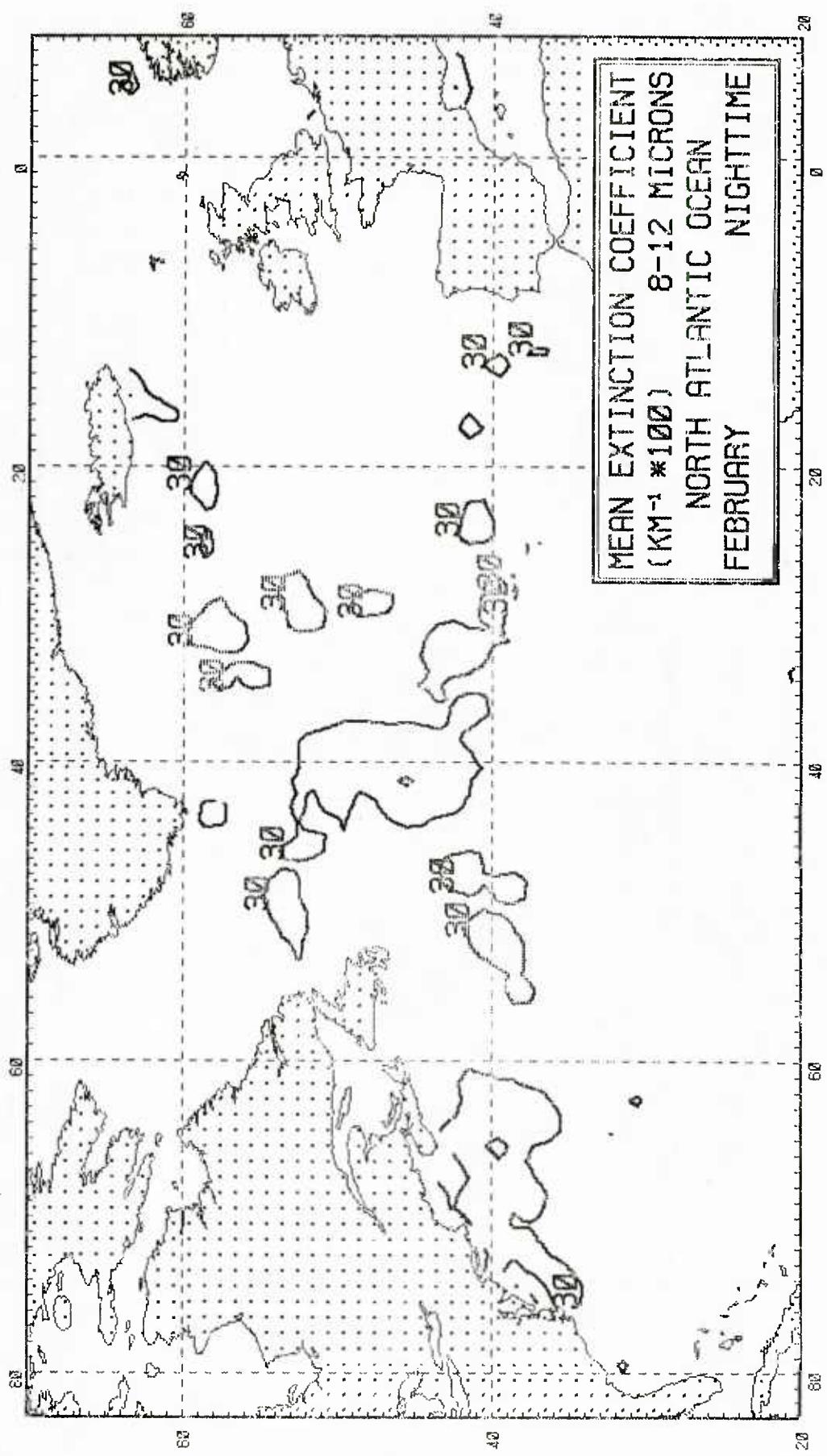


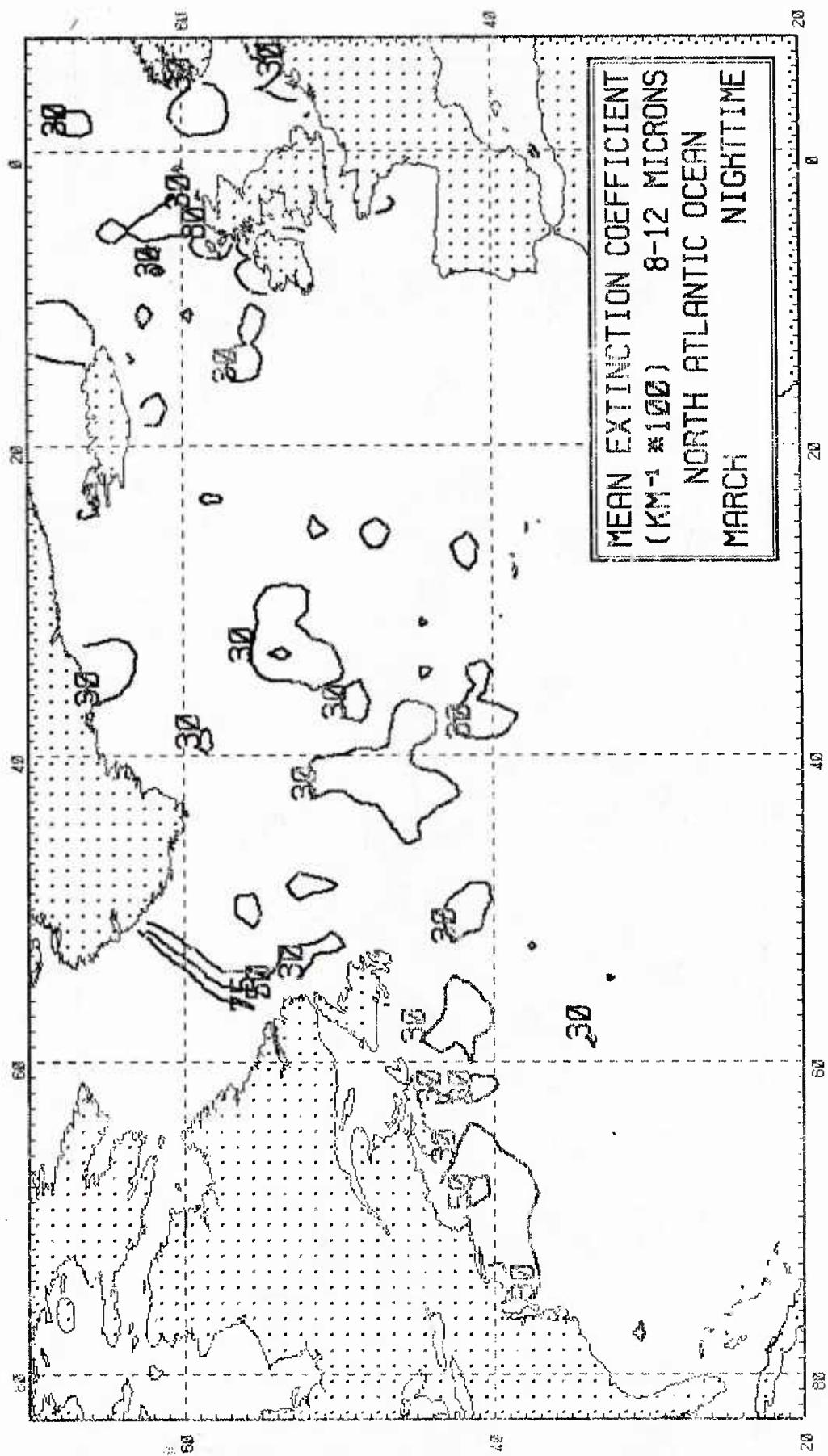


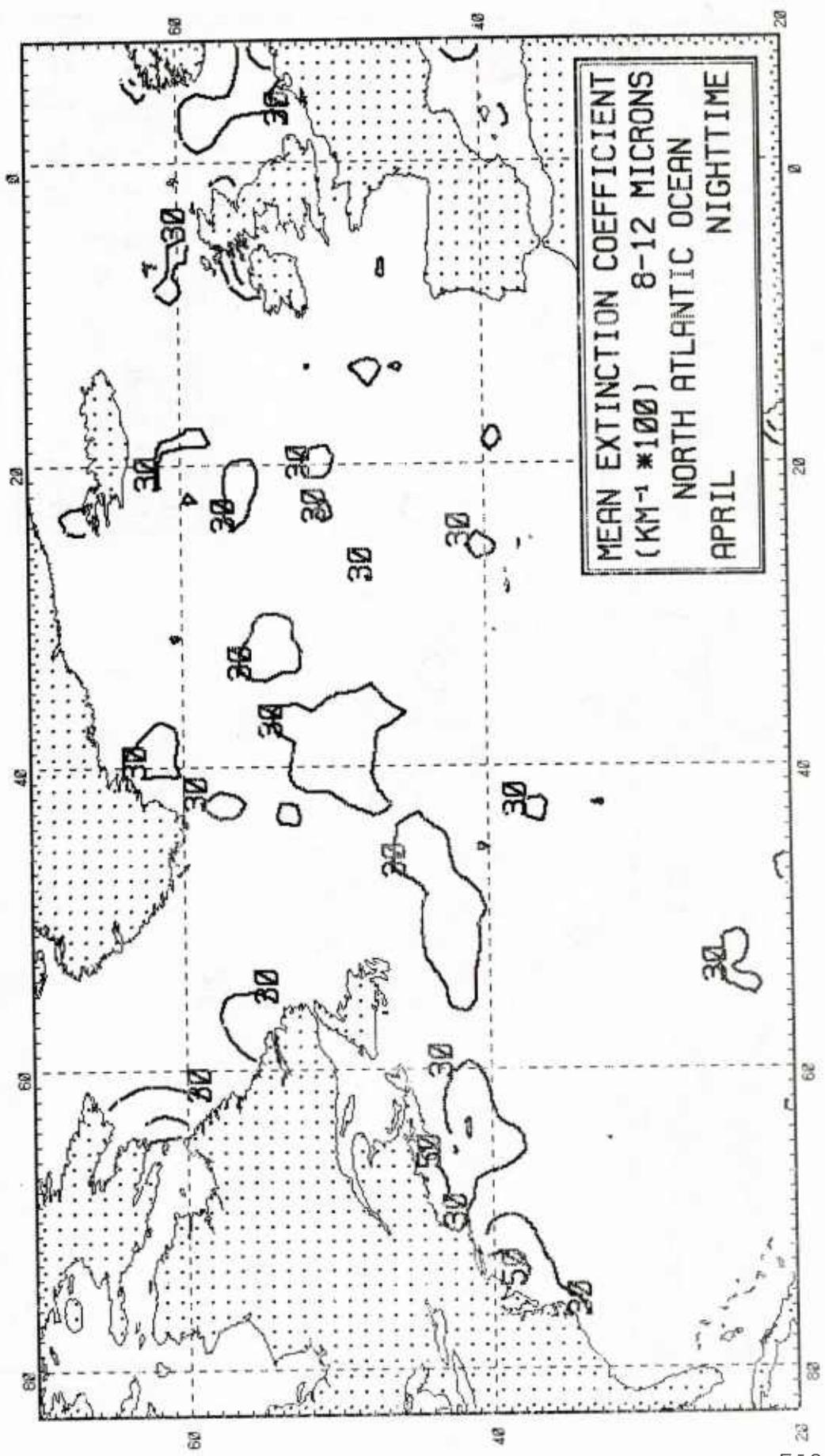


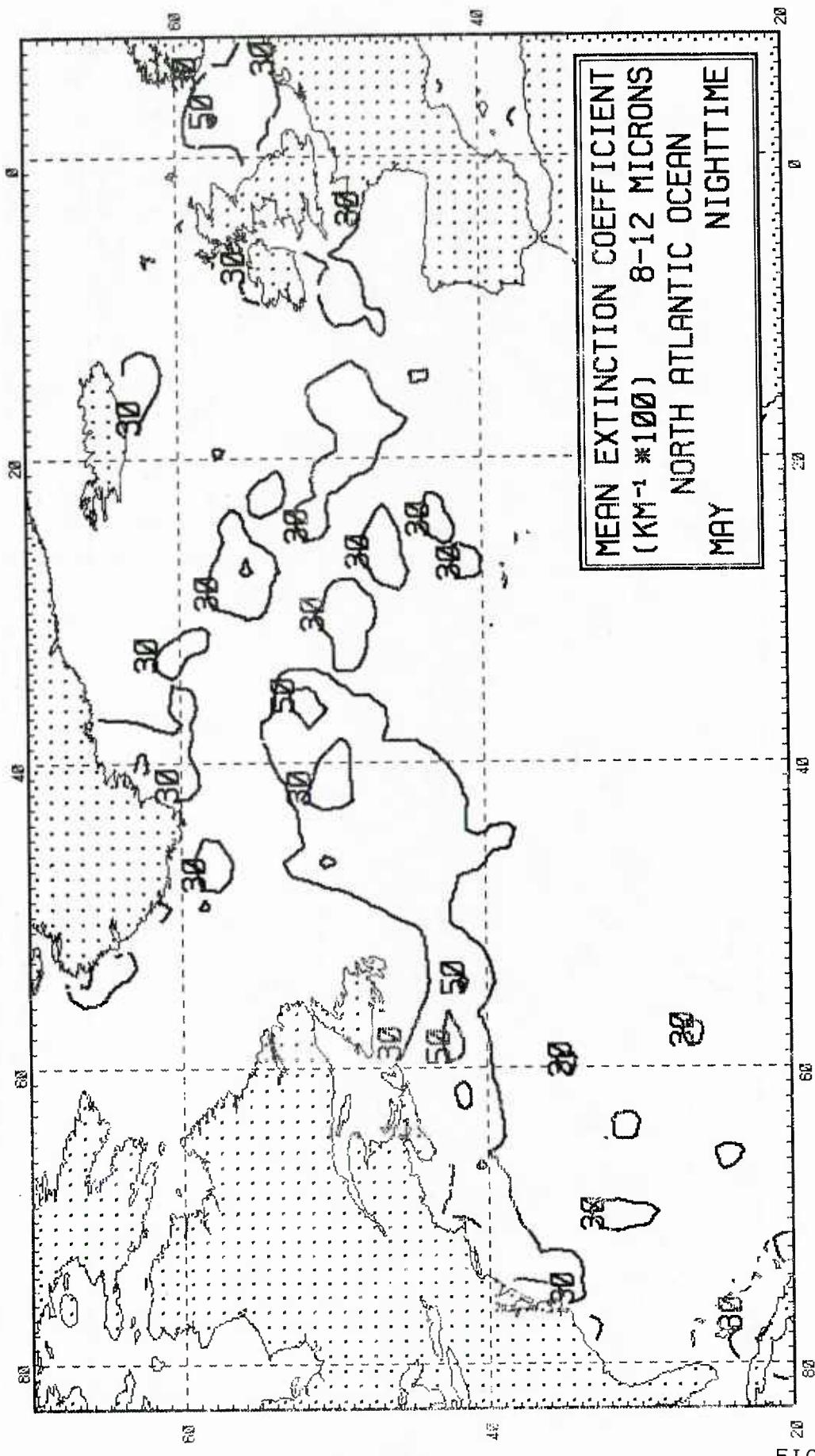












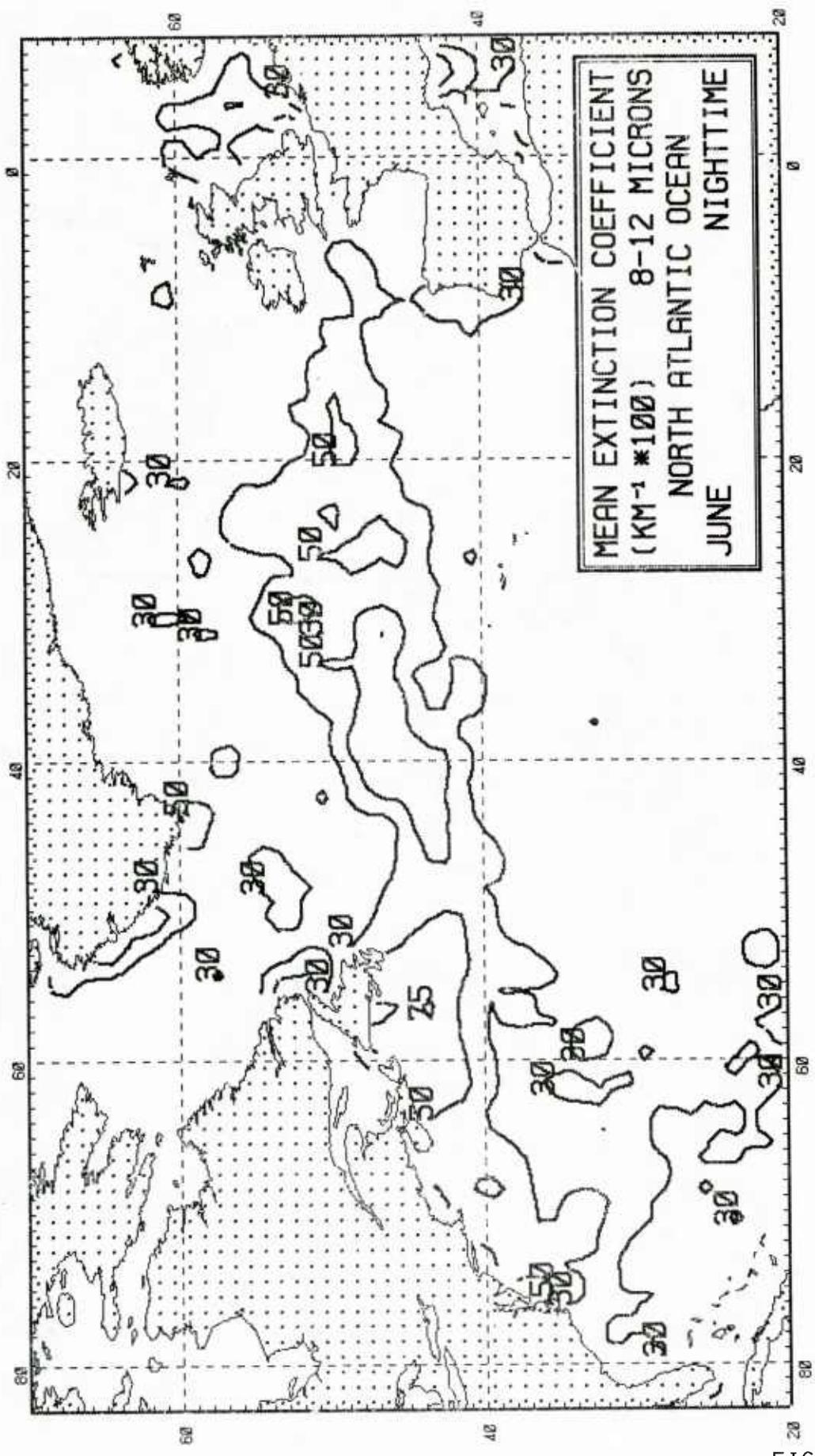


FIGURE 54

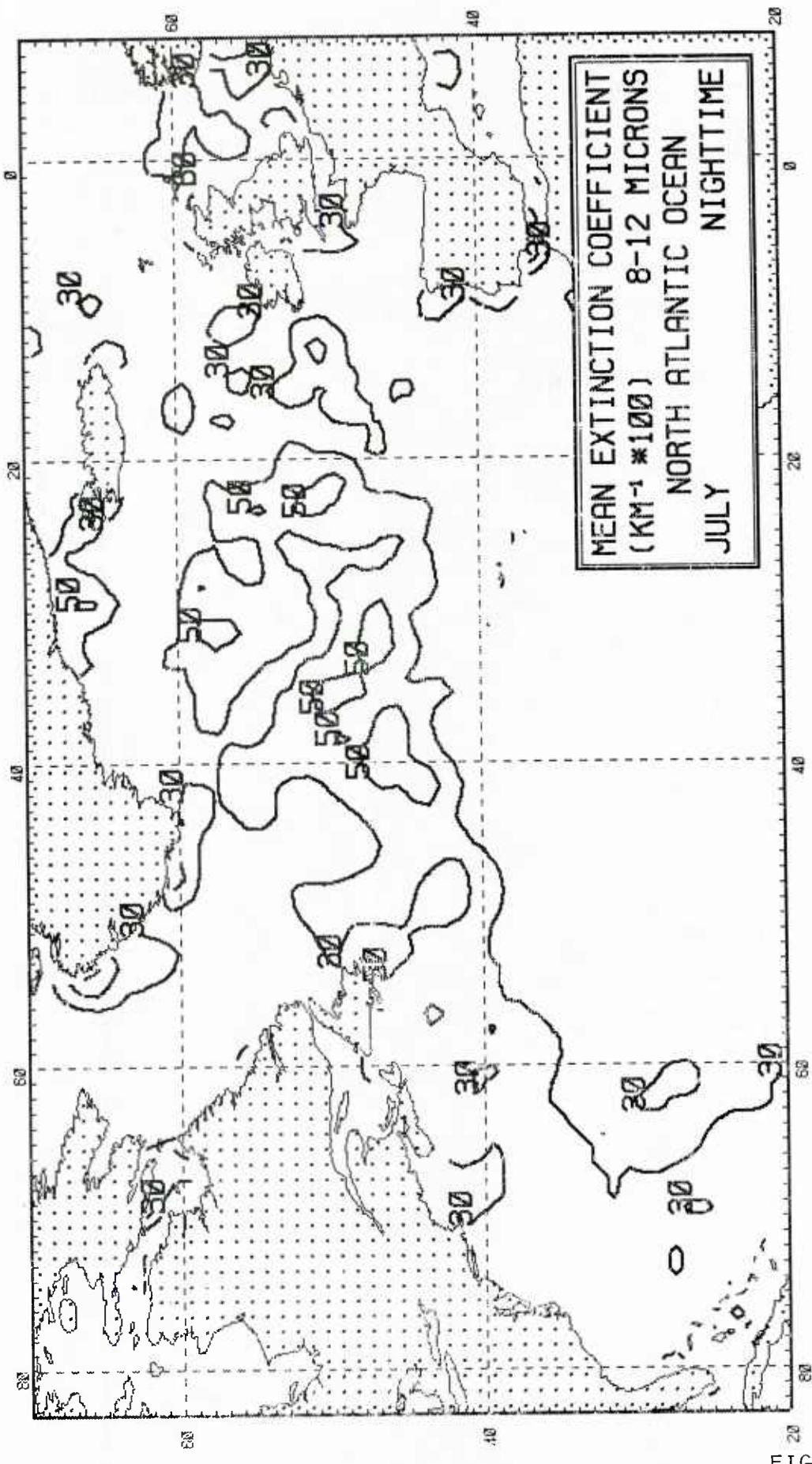
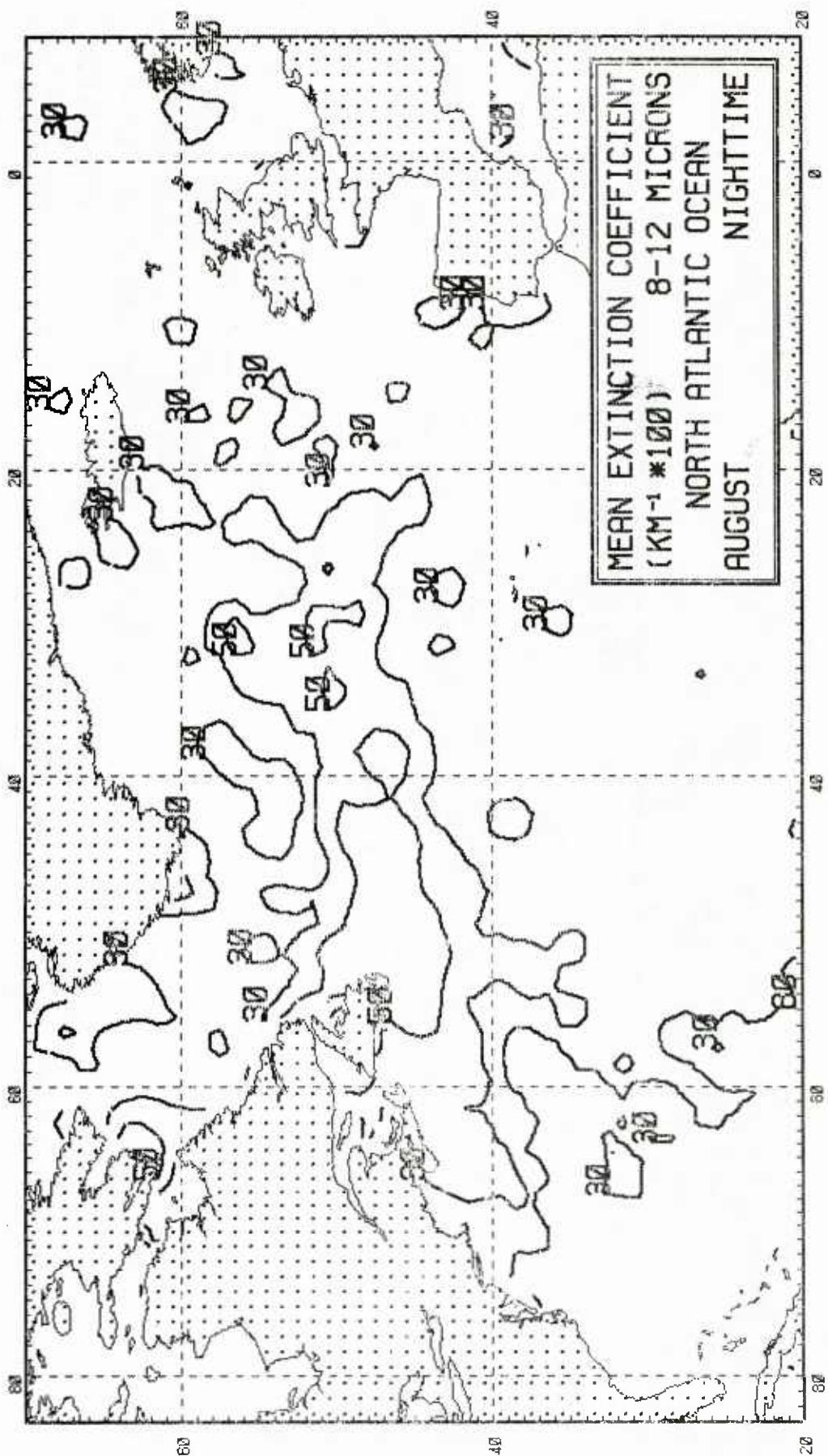
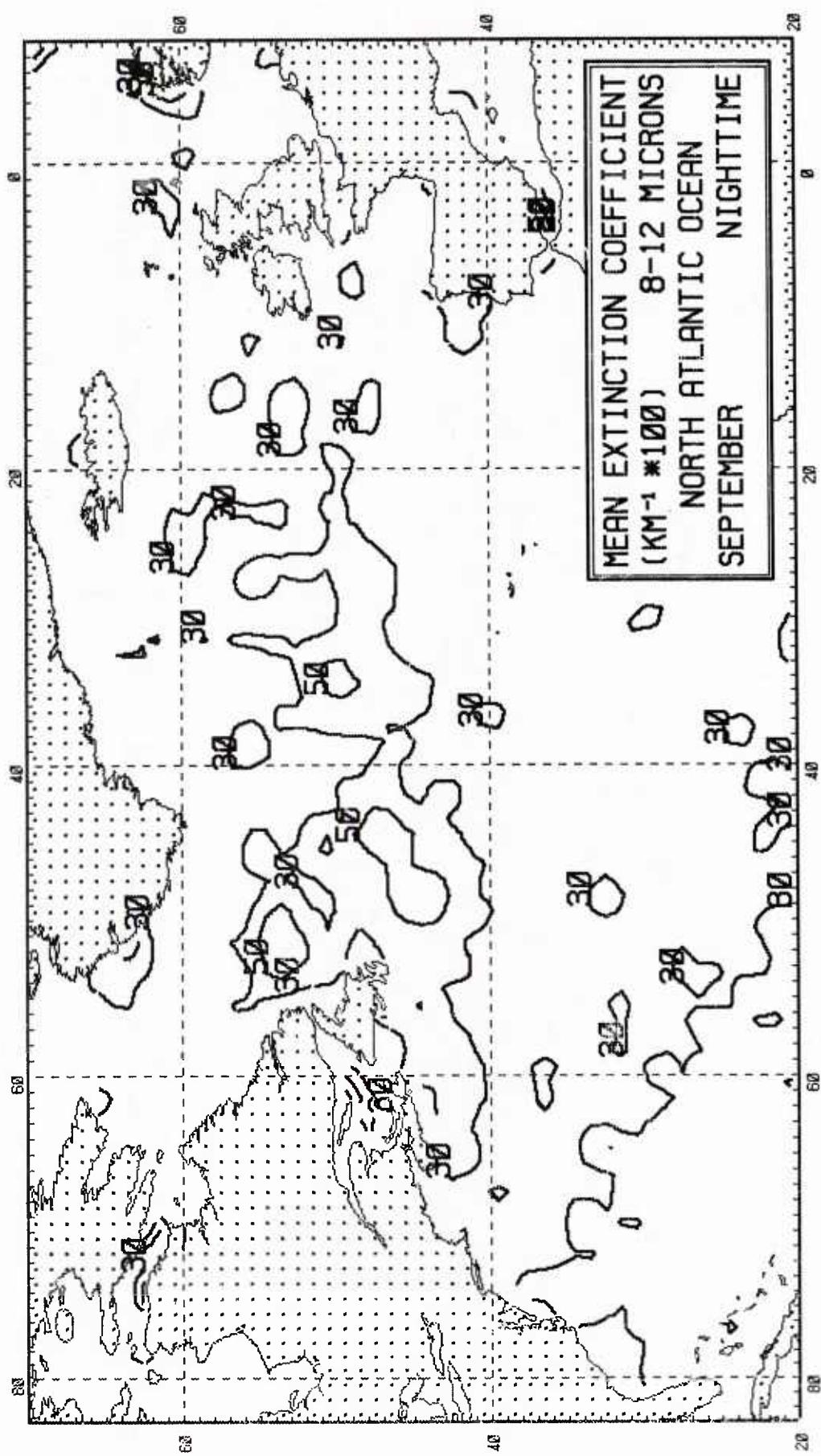
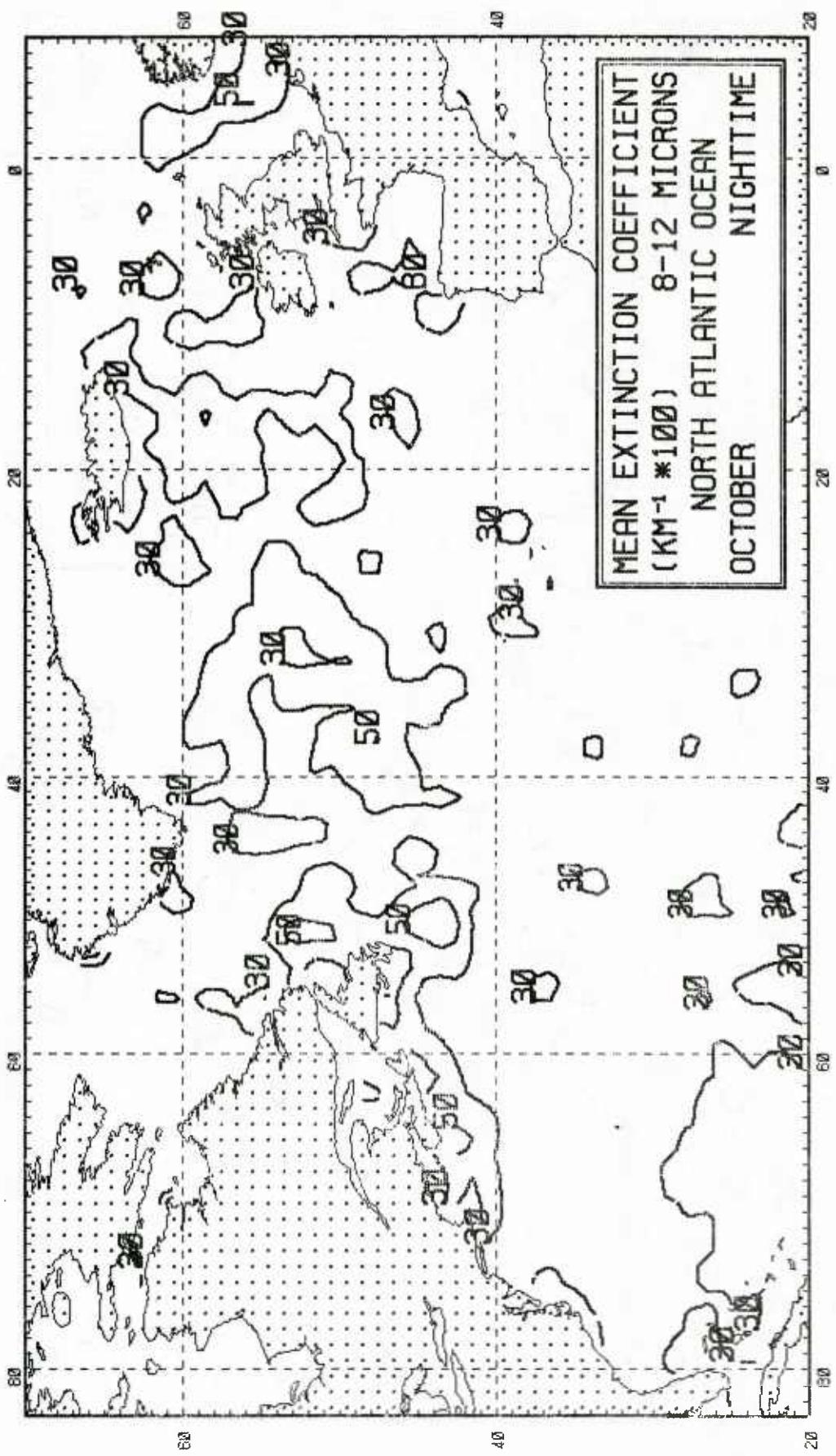
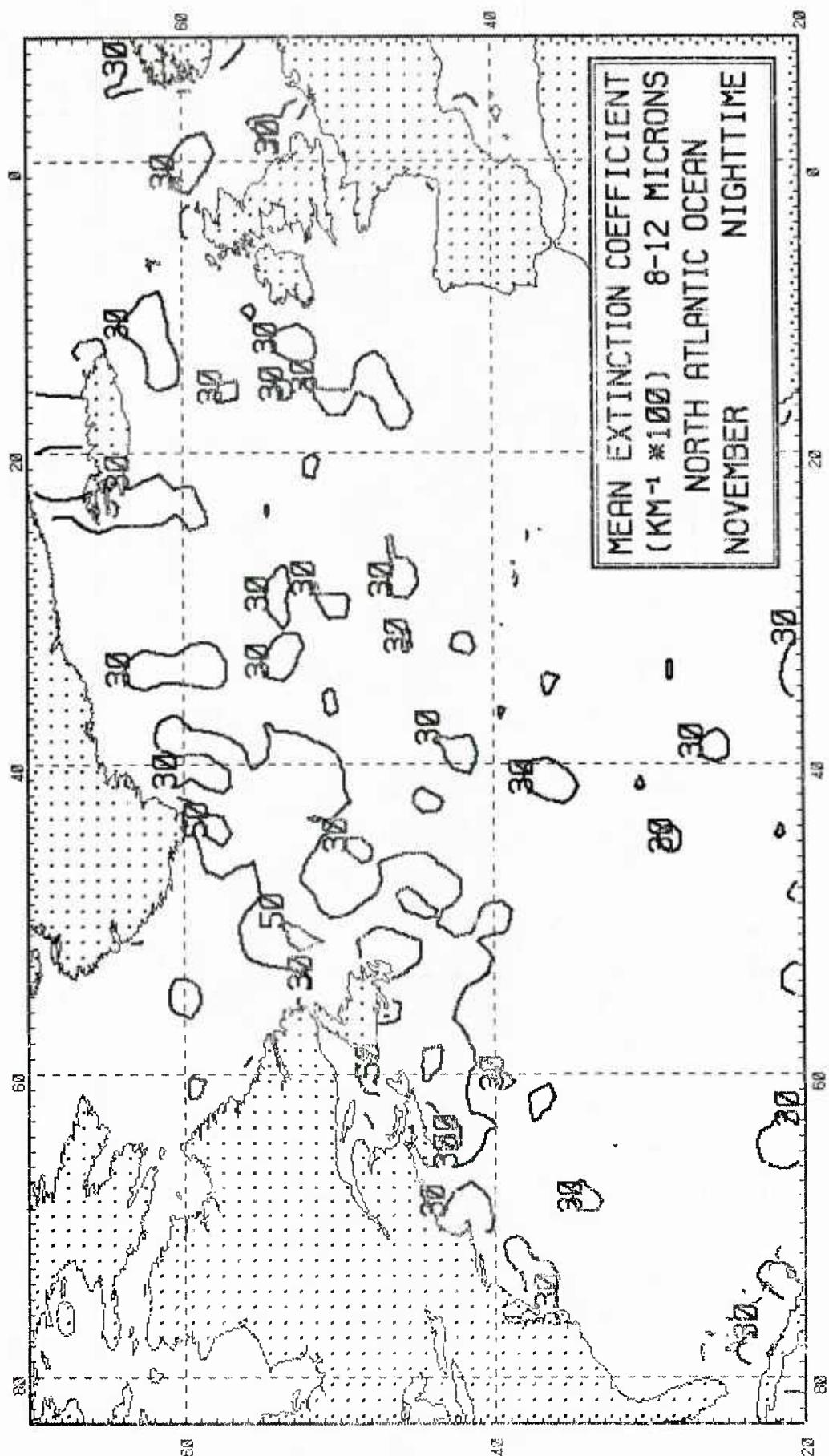


FIGURE 55









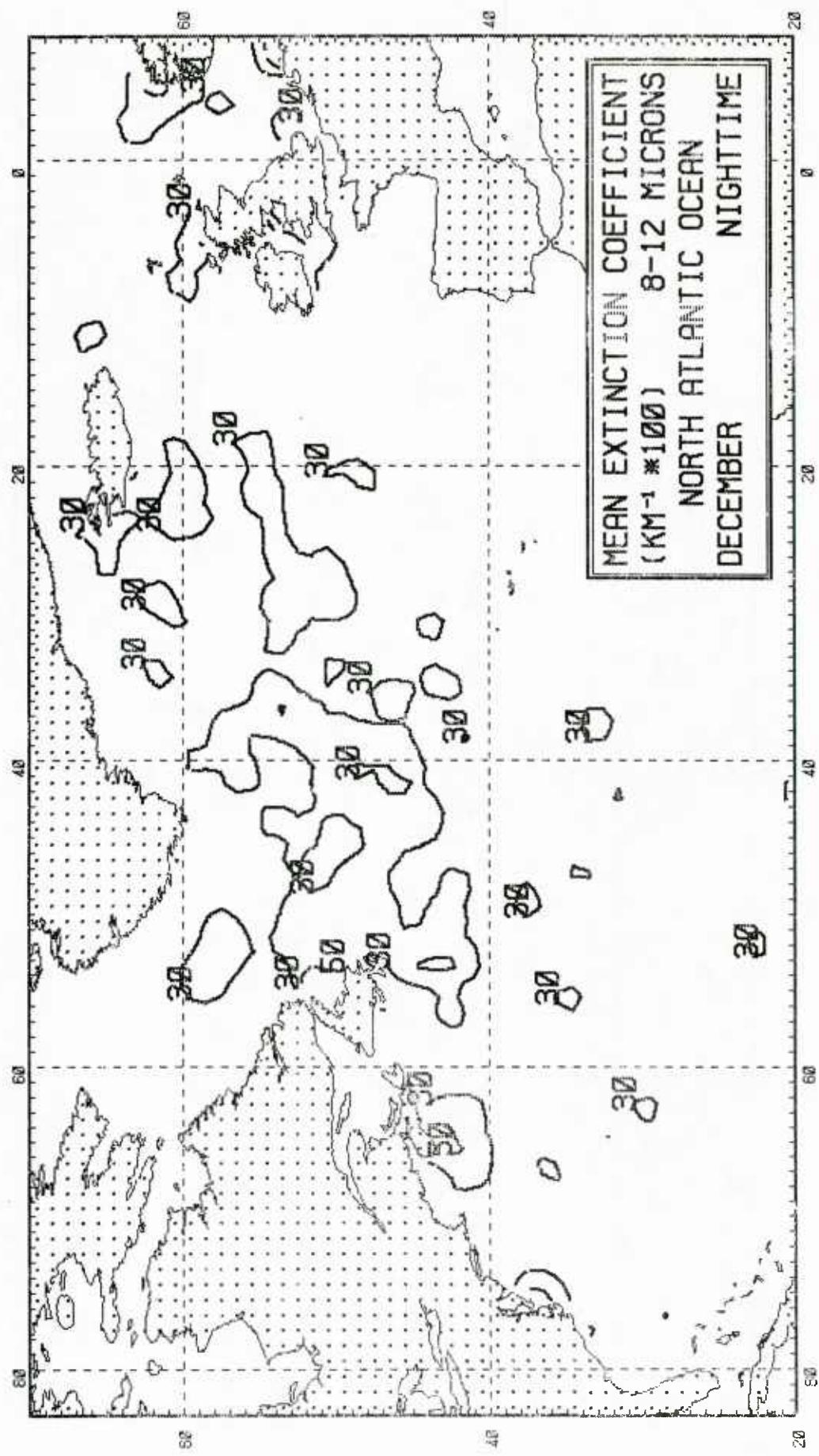


FIGURE 60

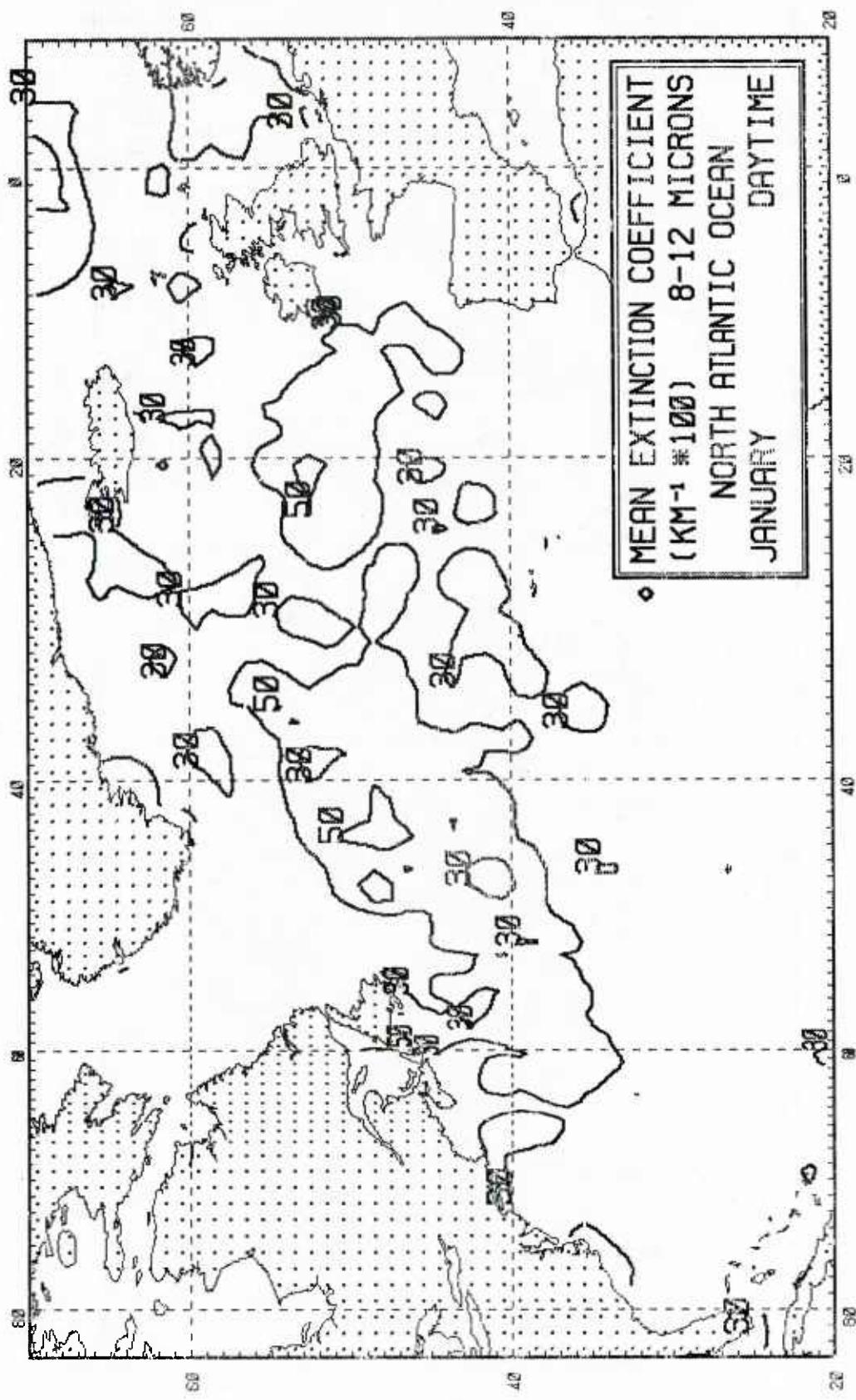


FIGURE 61

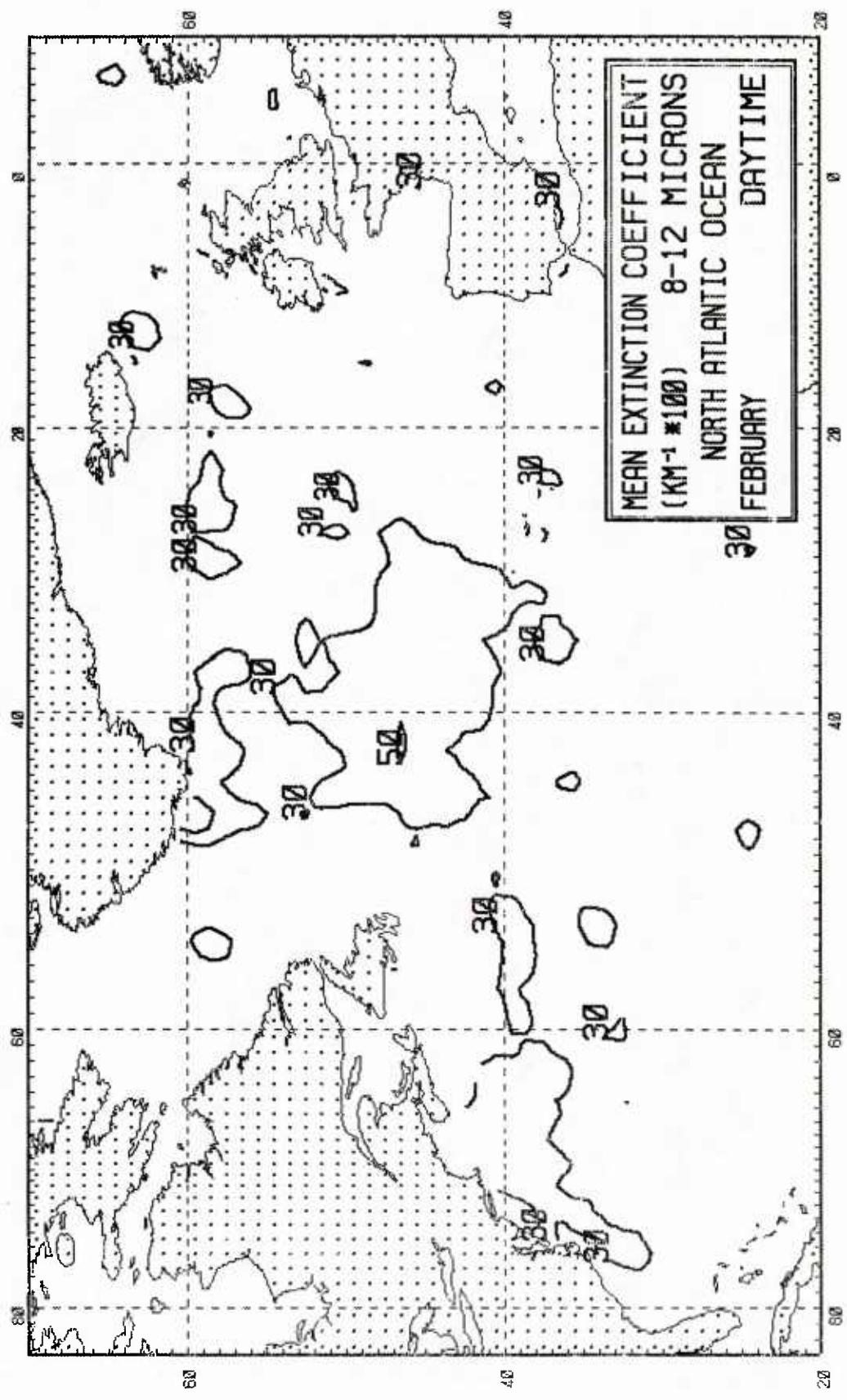
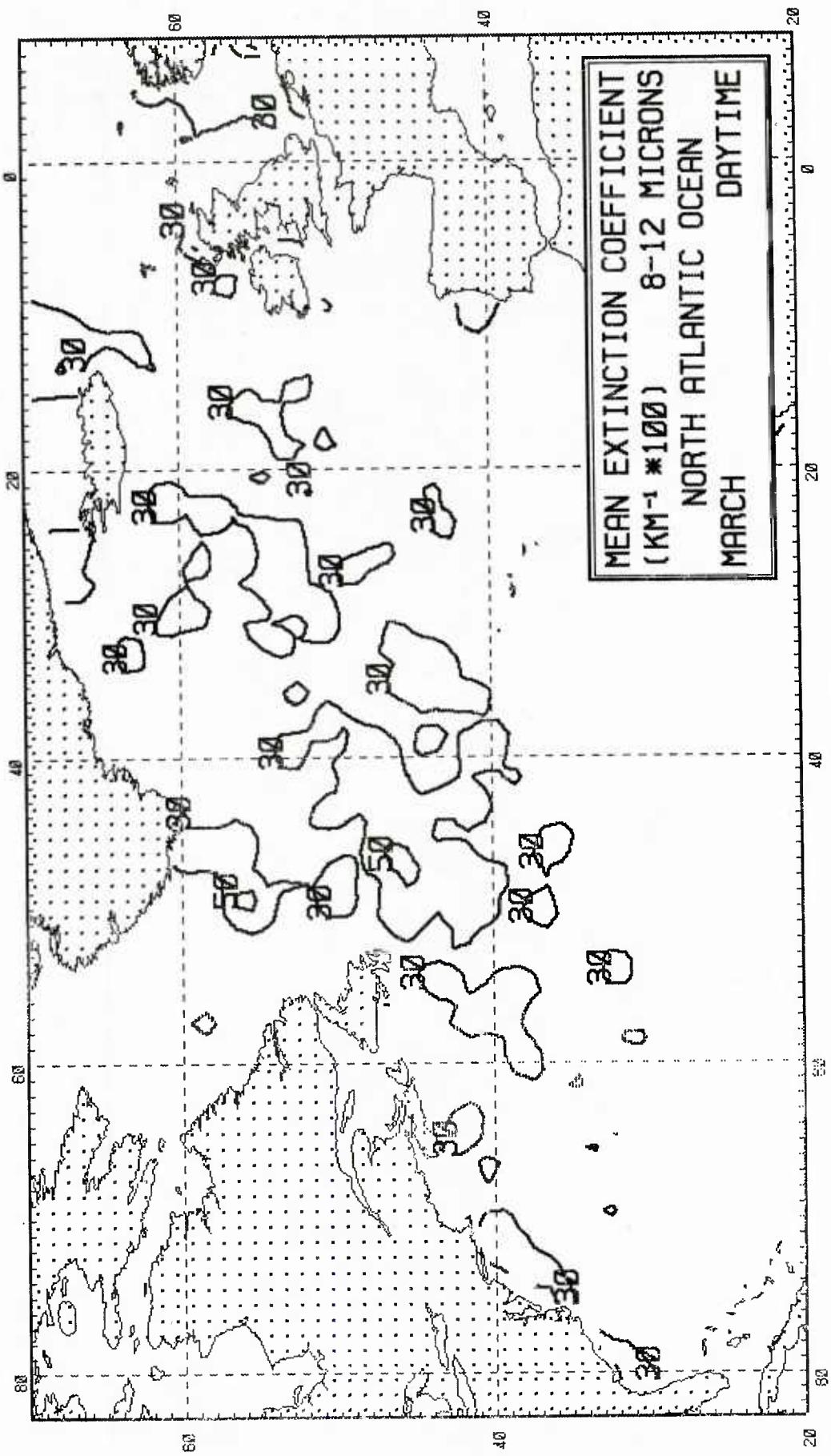


FIGURE 62



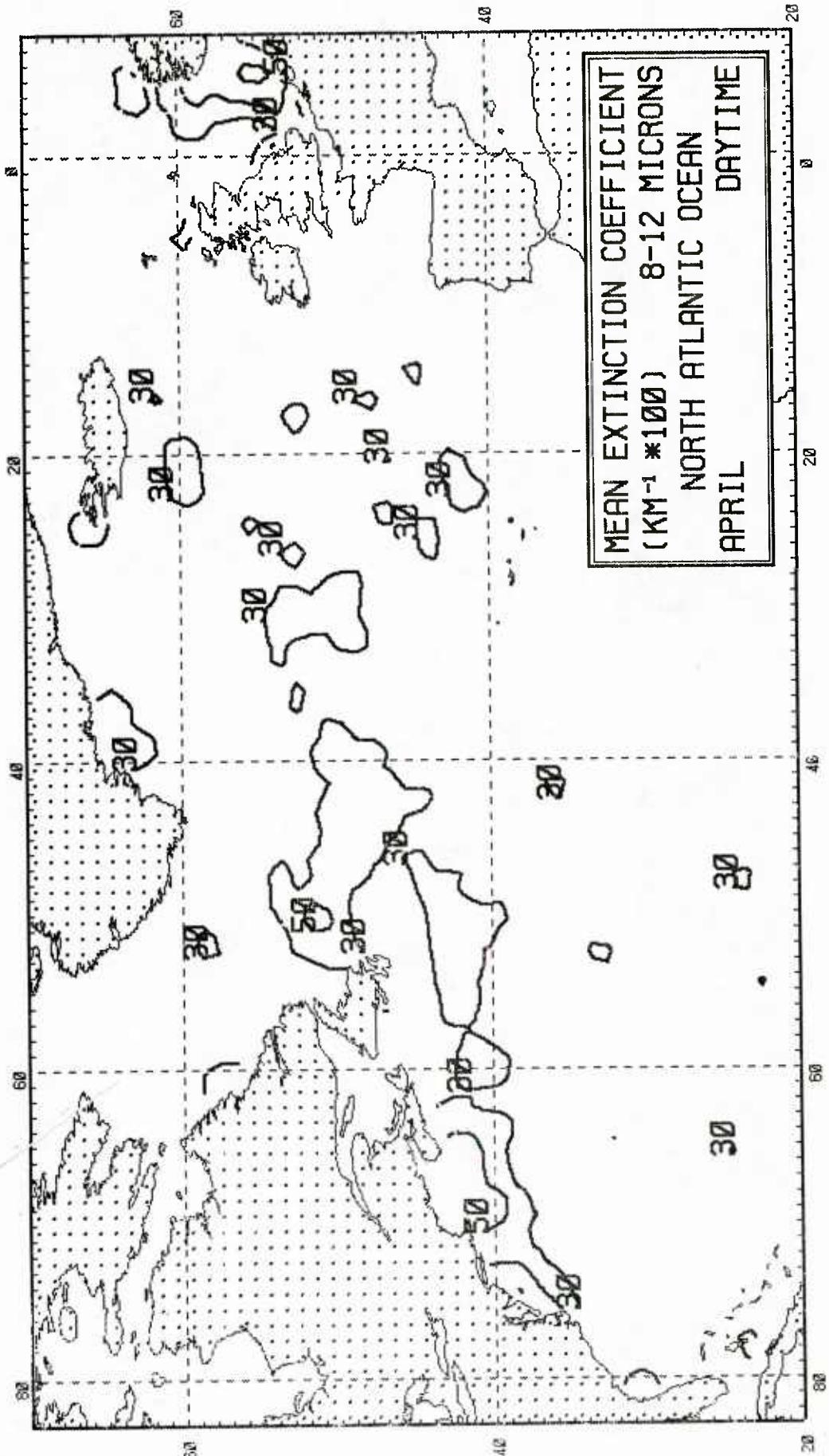


FIGURE 64

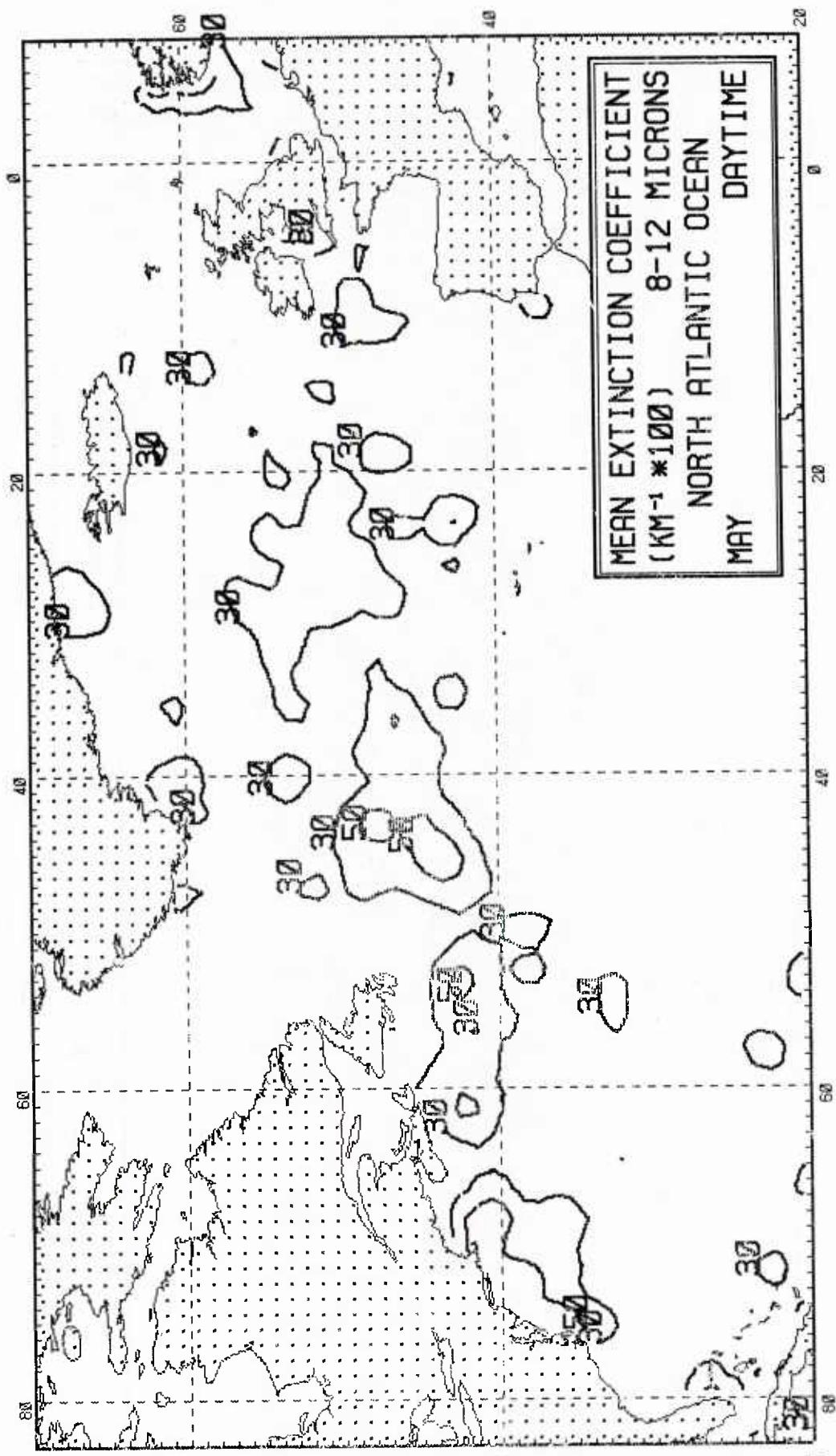


FIGURE 65

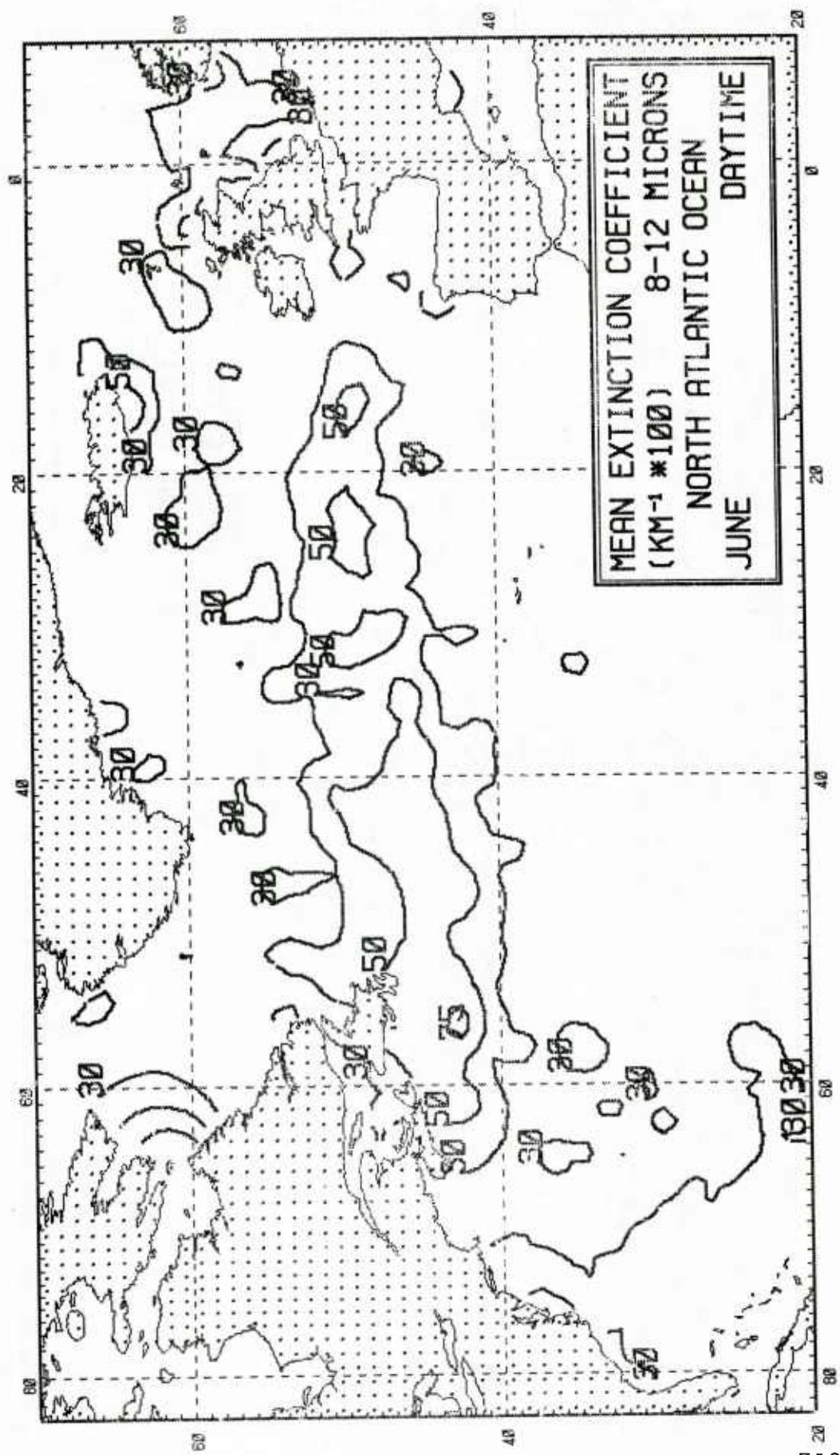


FIGURE 66

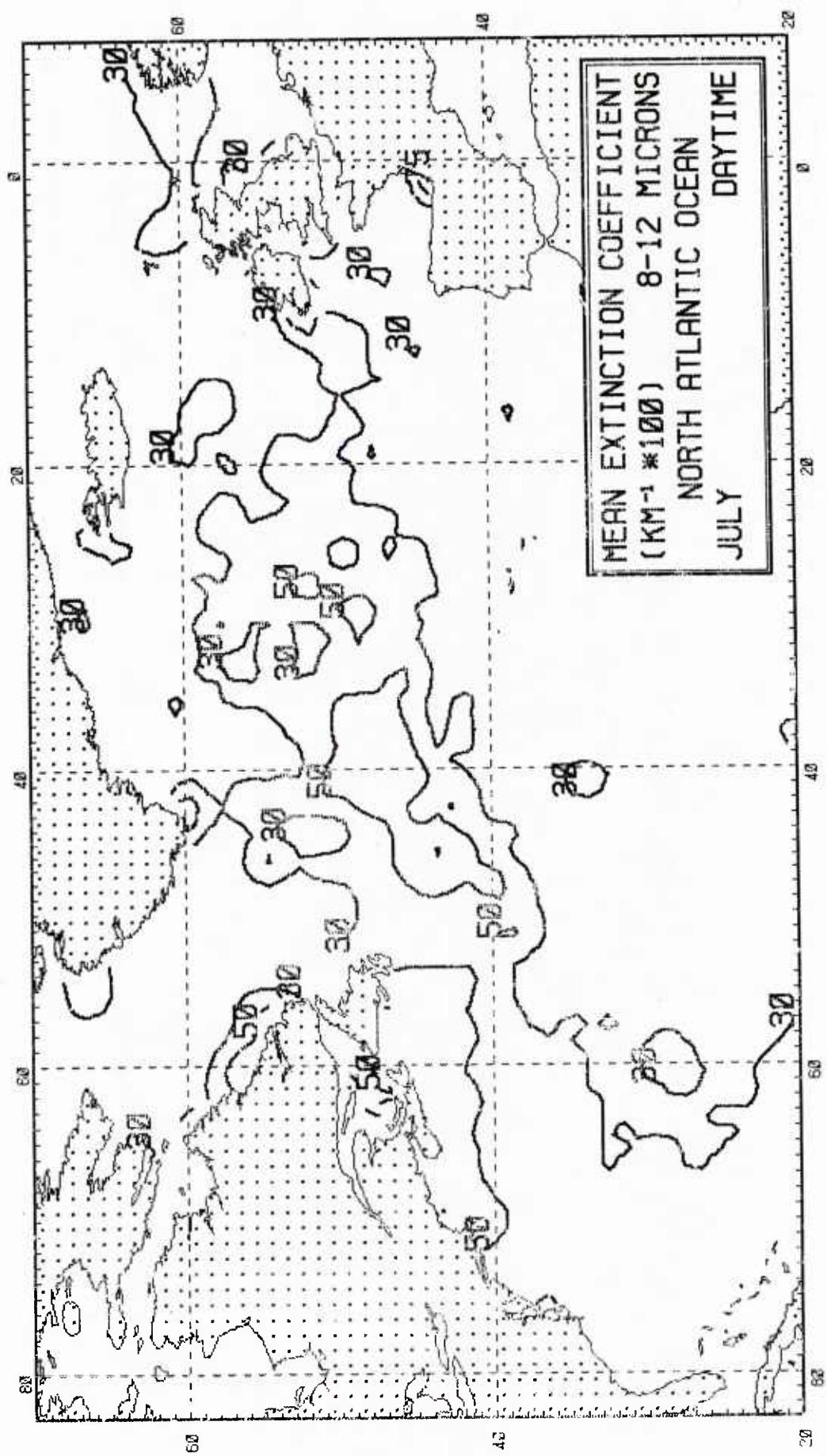


FIGURE 67

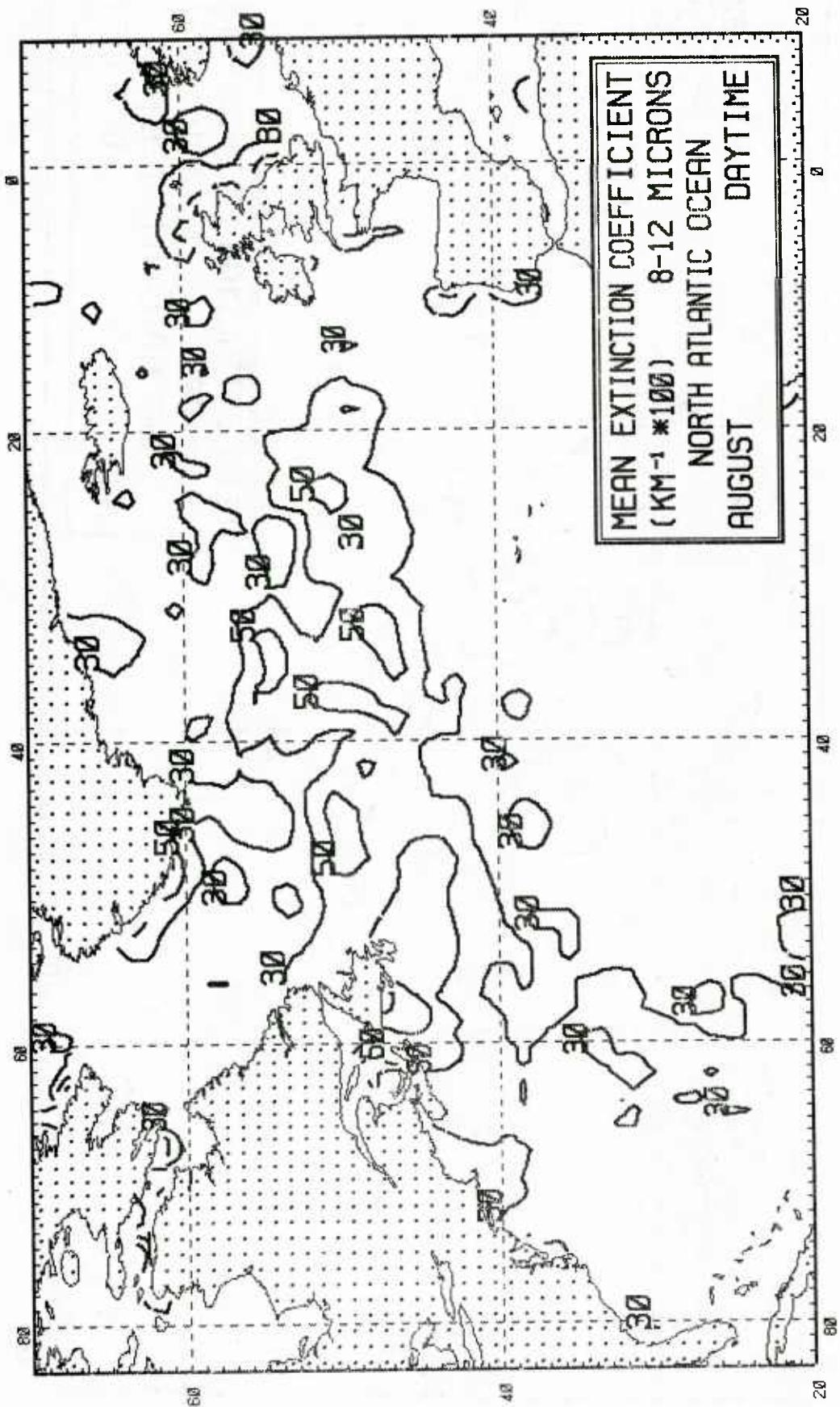


FIGURE 68

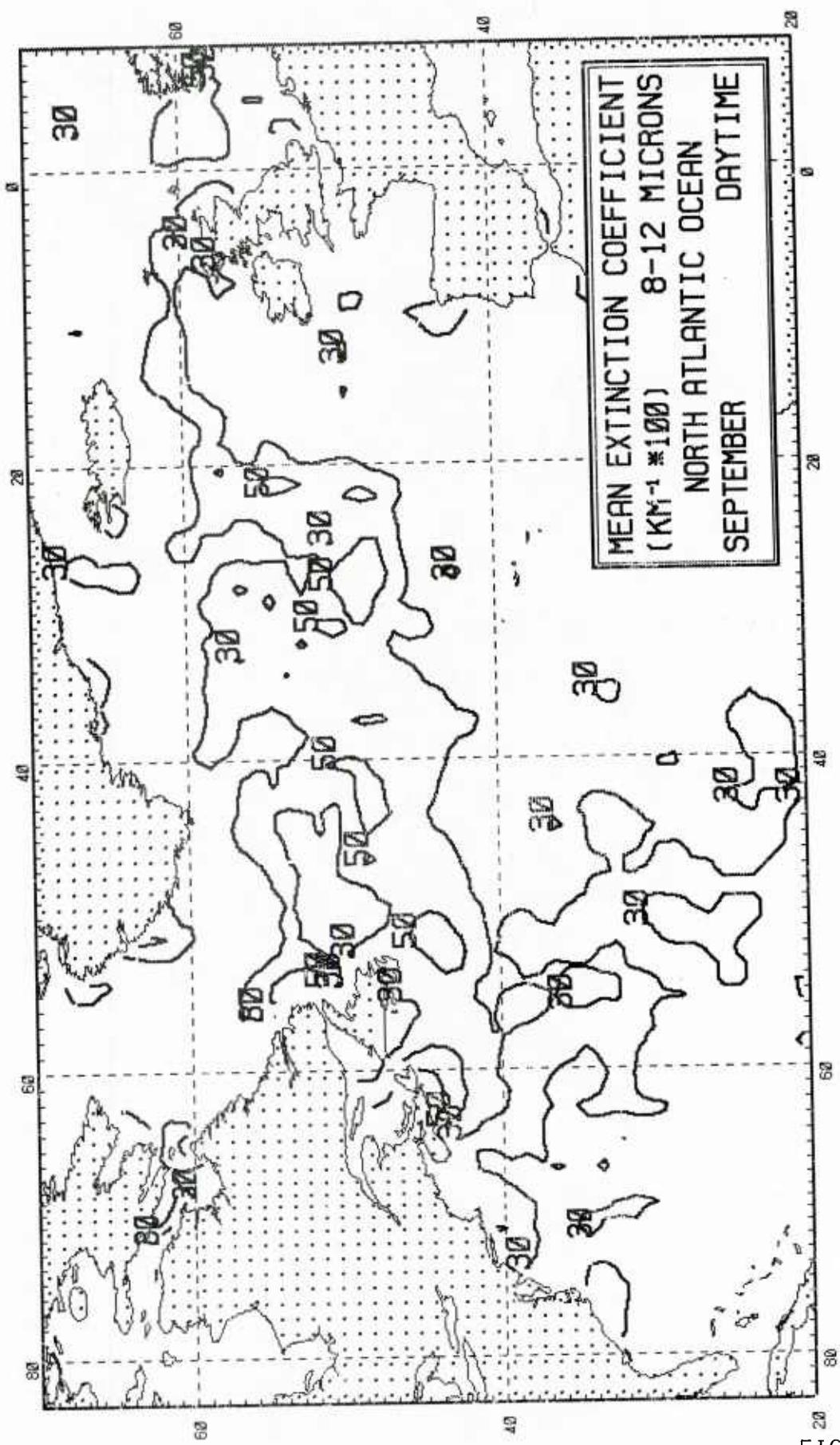


FIGURE 69

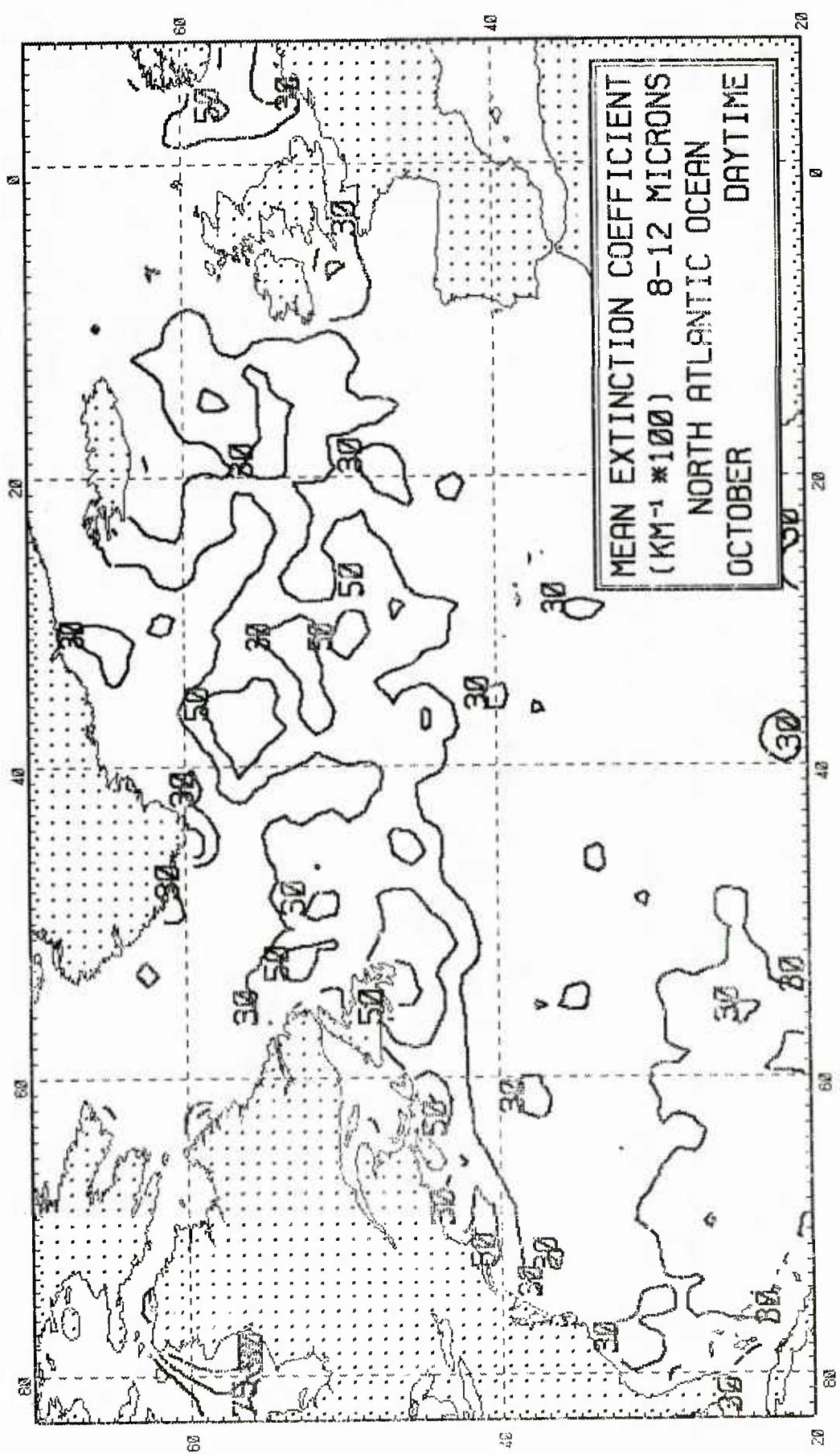
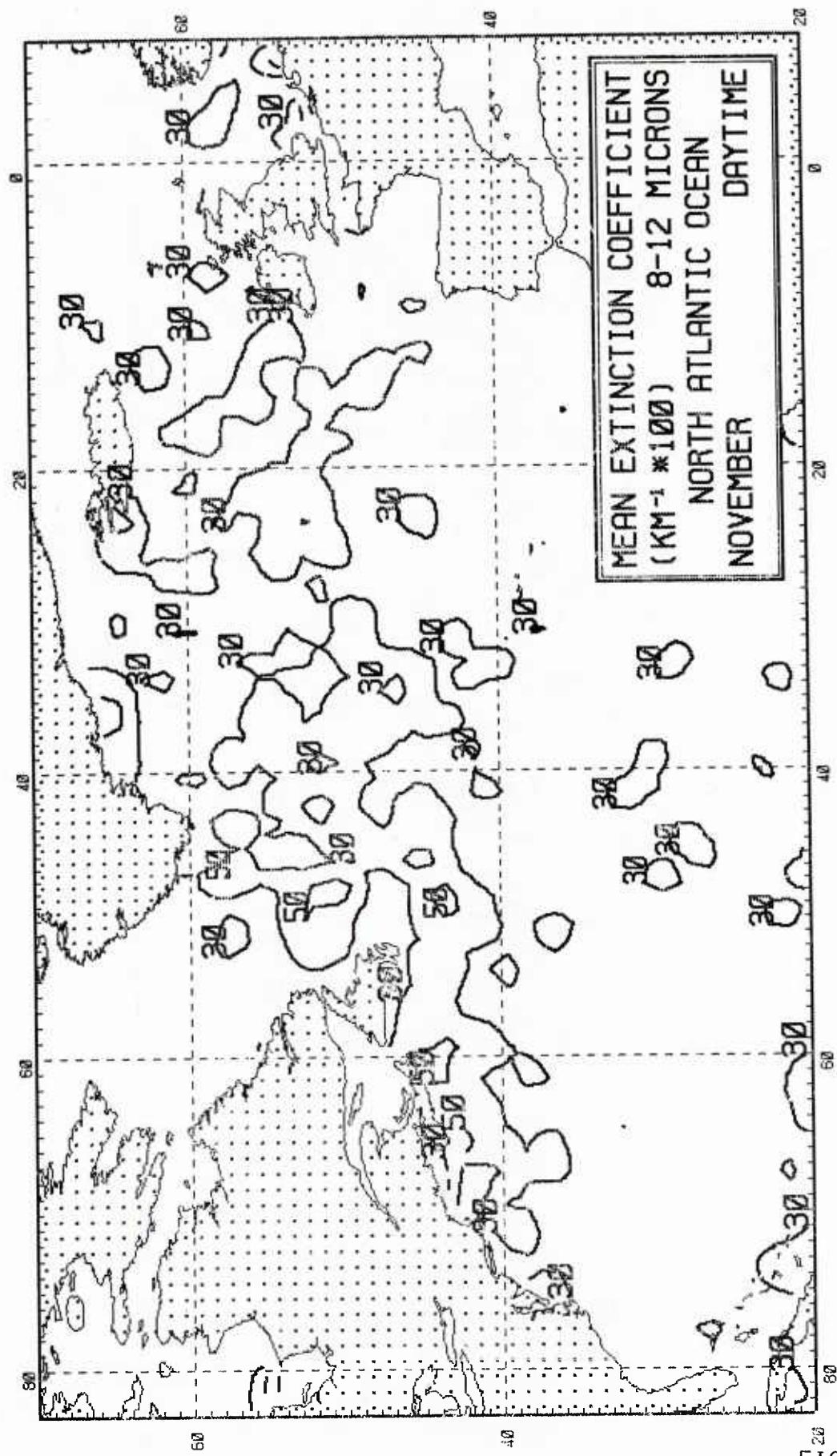
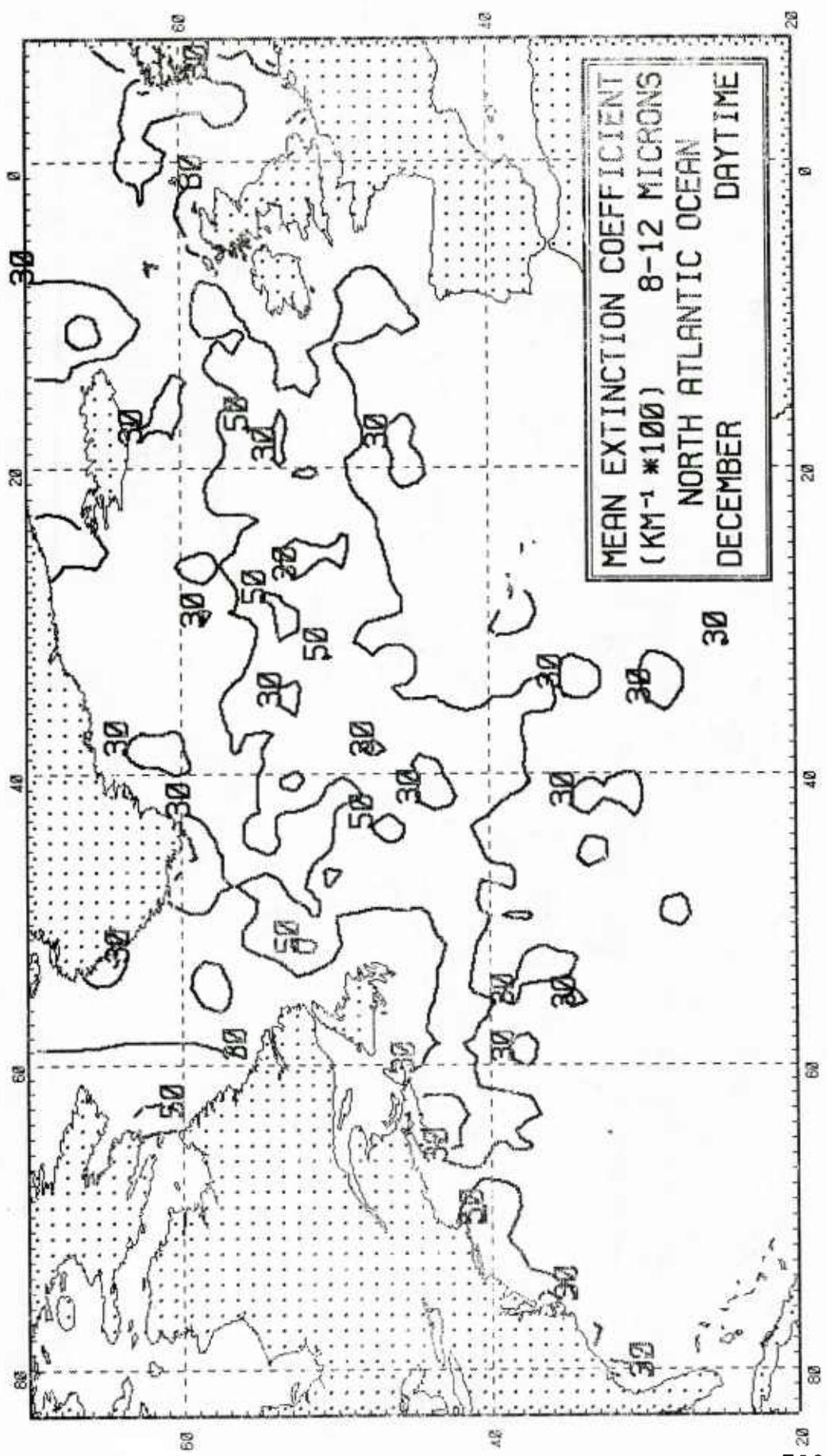


FIGURE 70





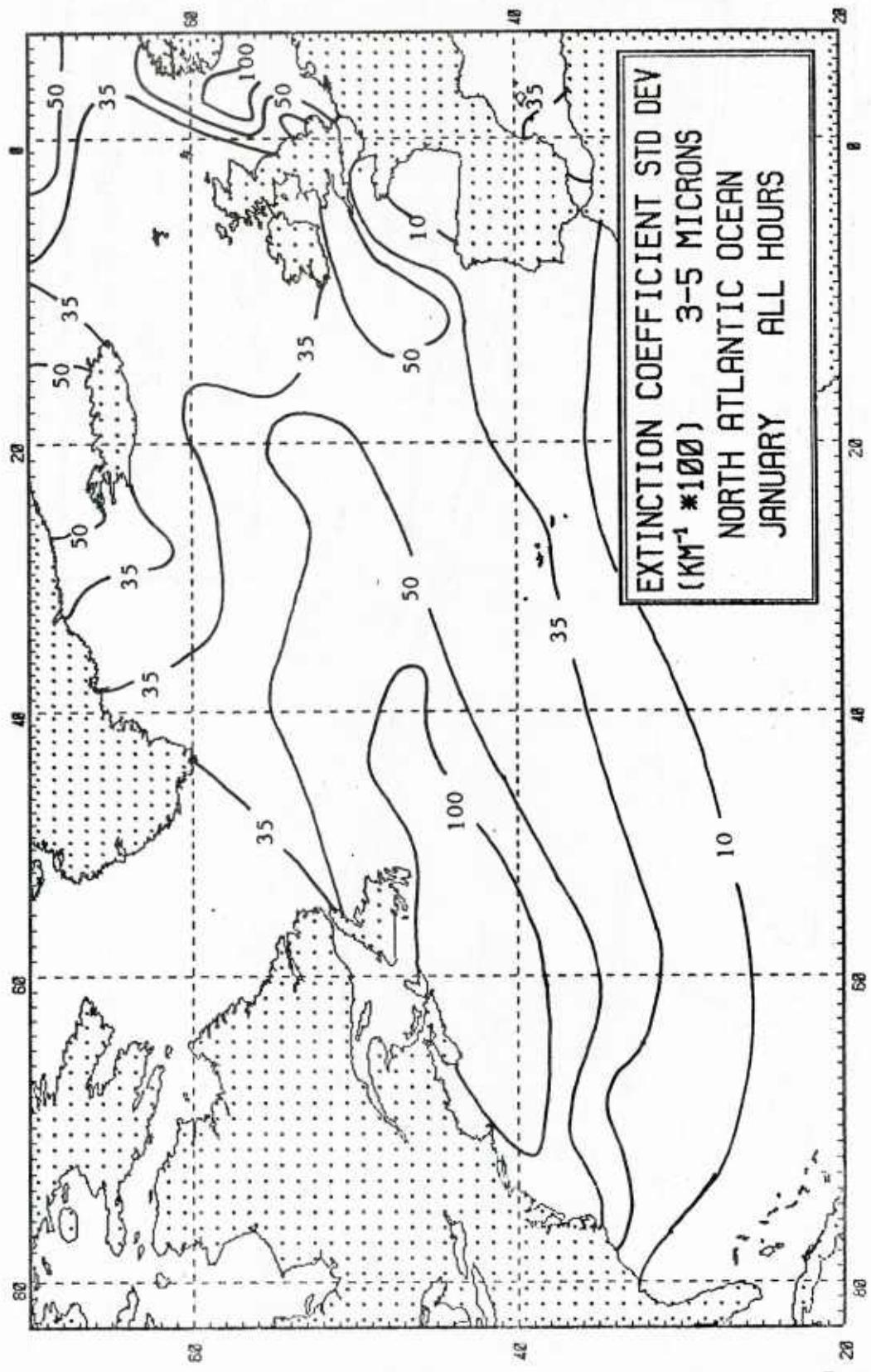
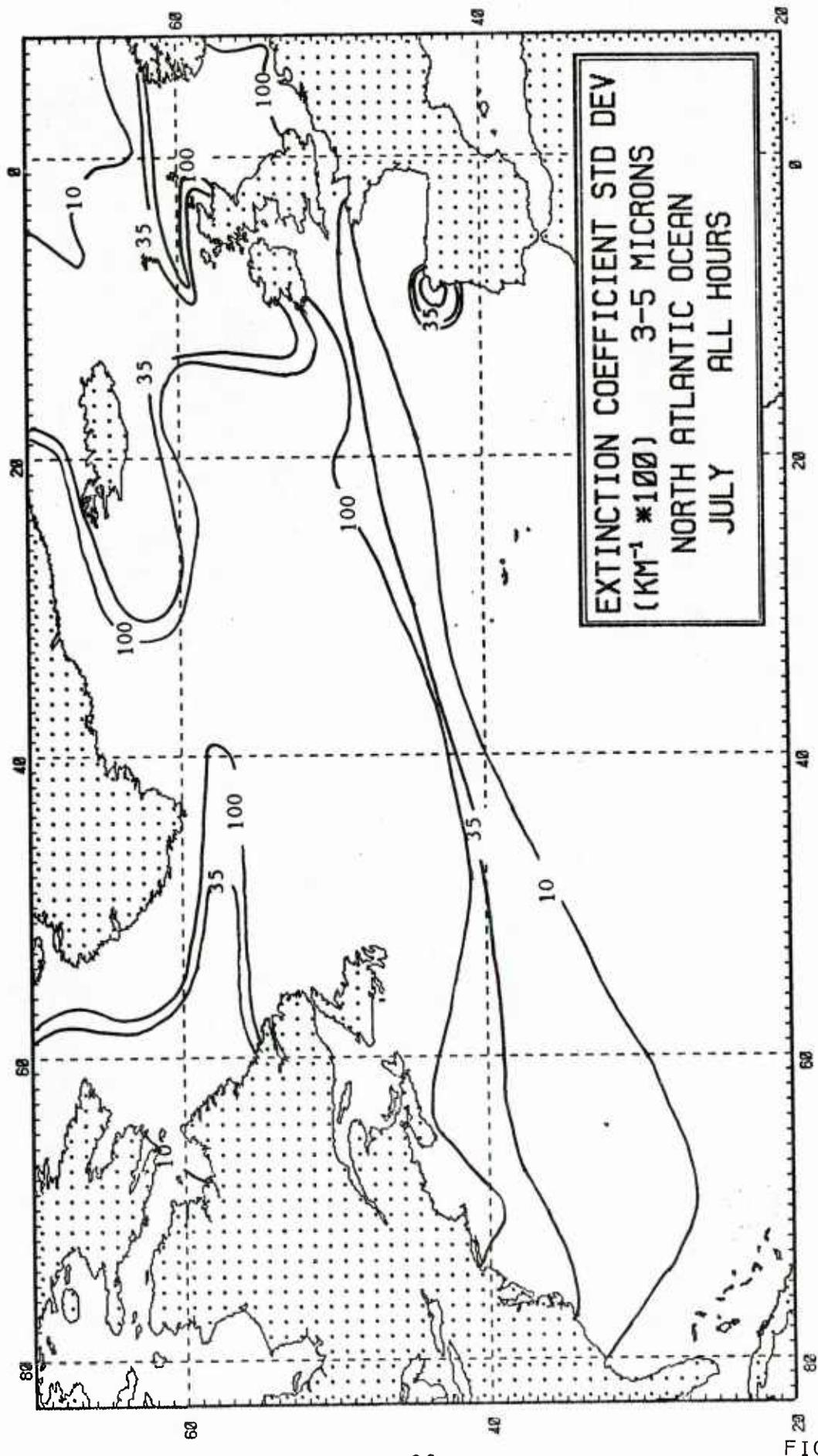
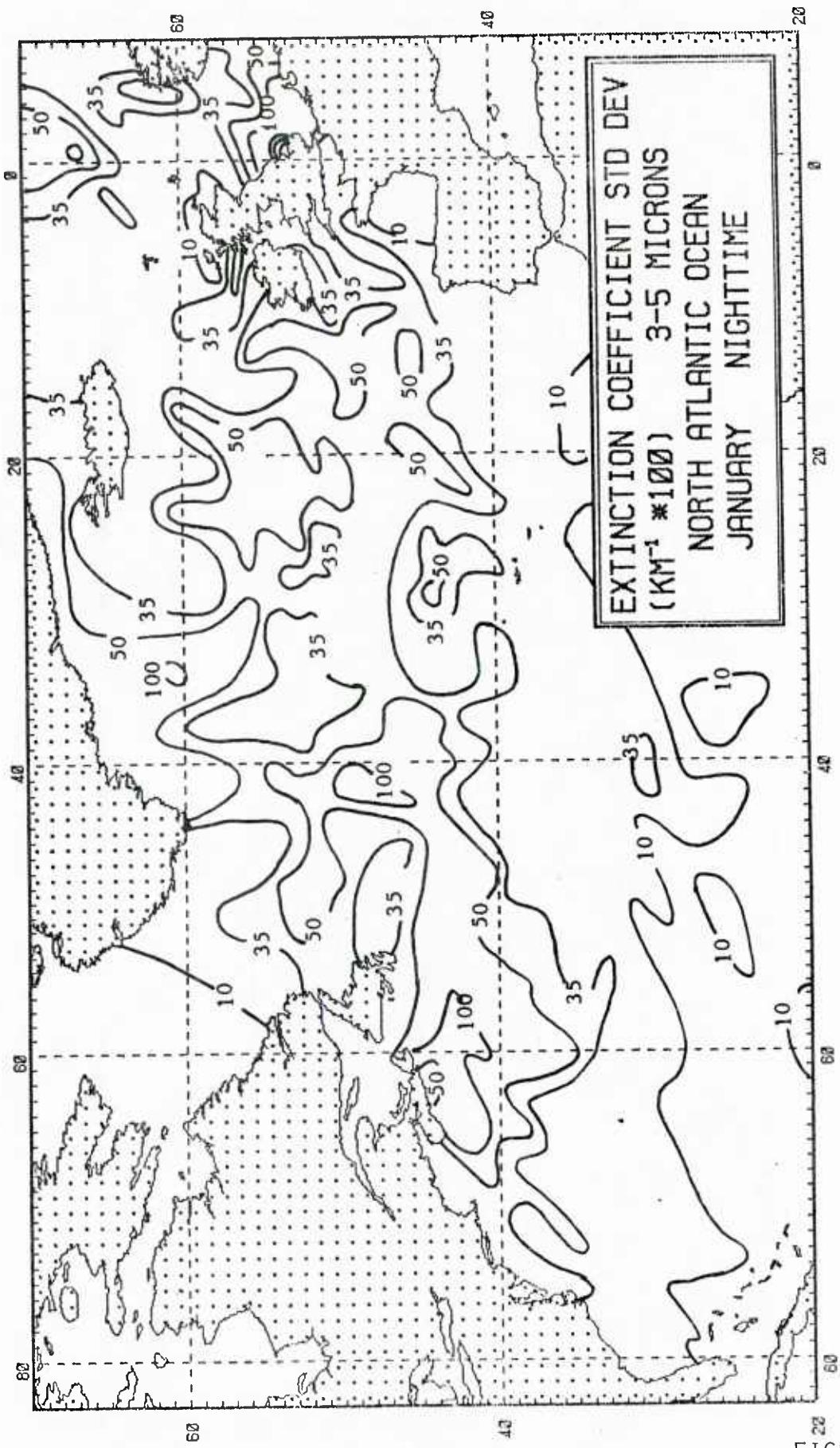


FIGURE 73



80

FIGURE 74



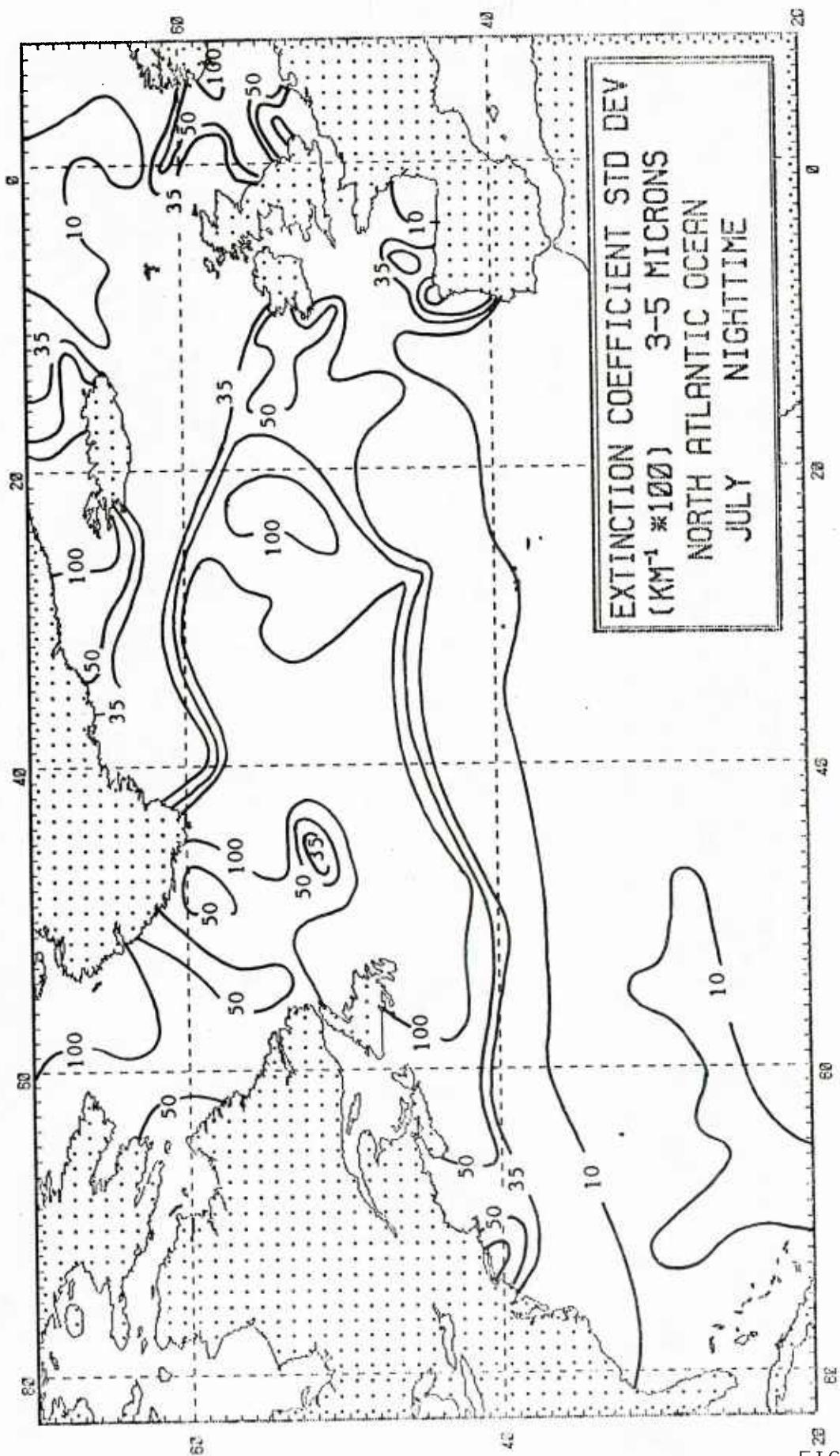
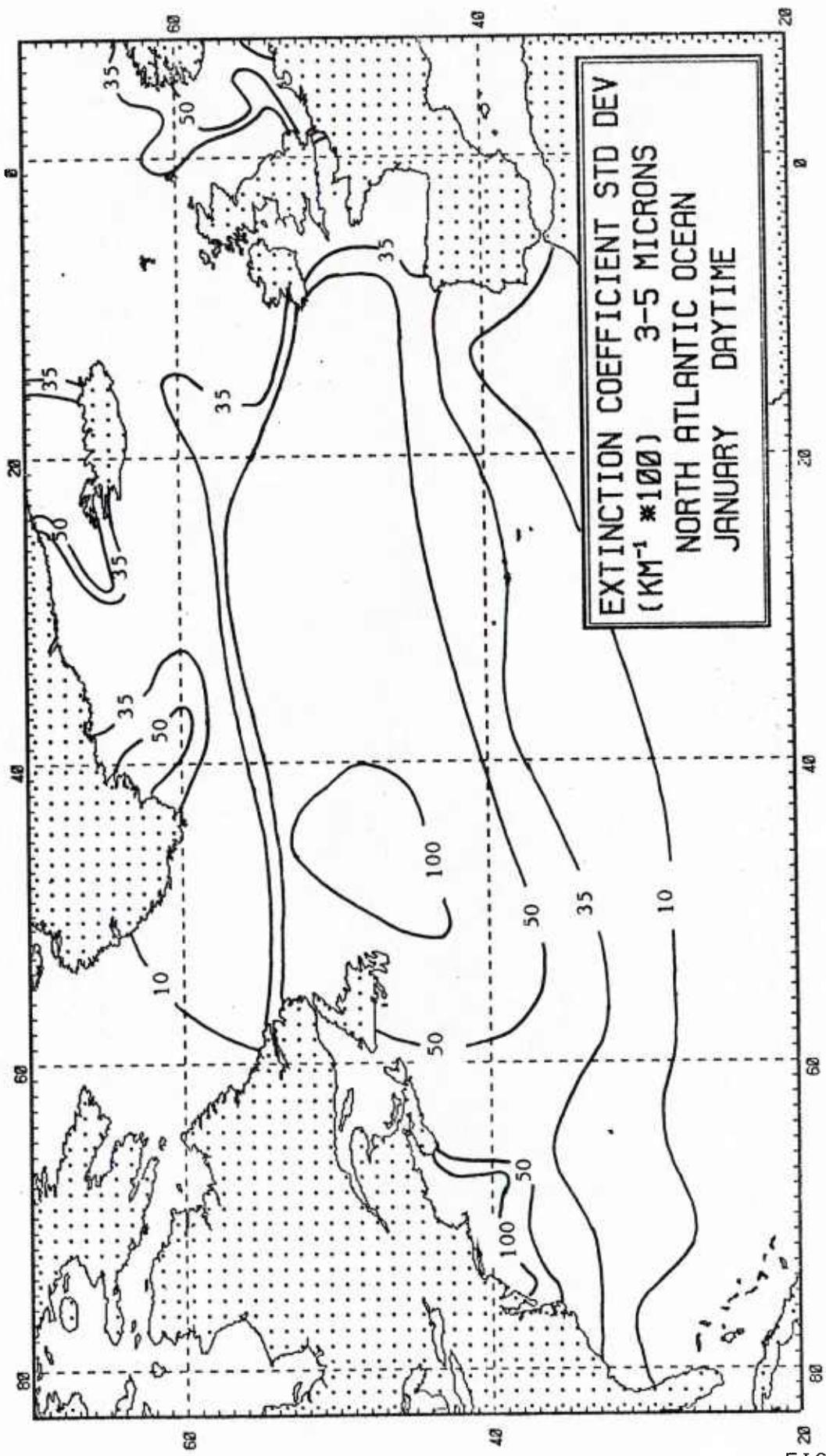
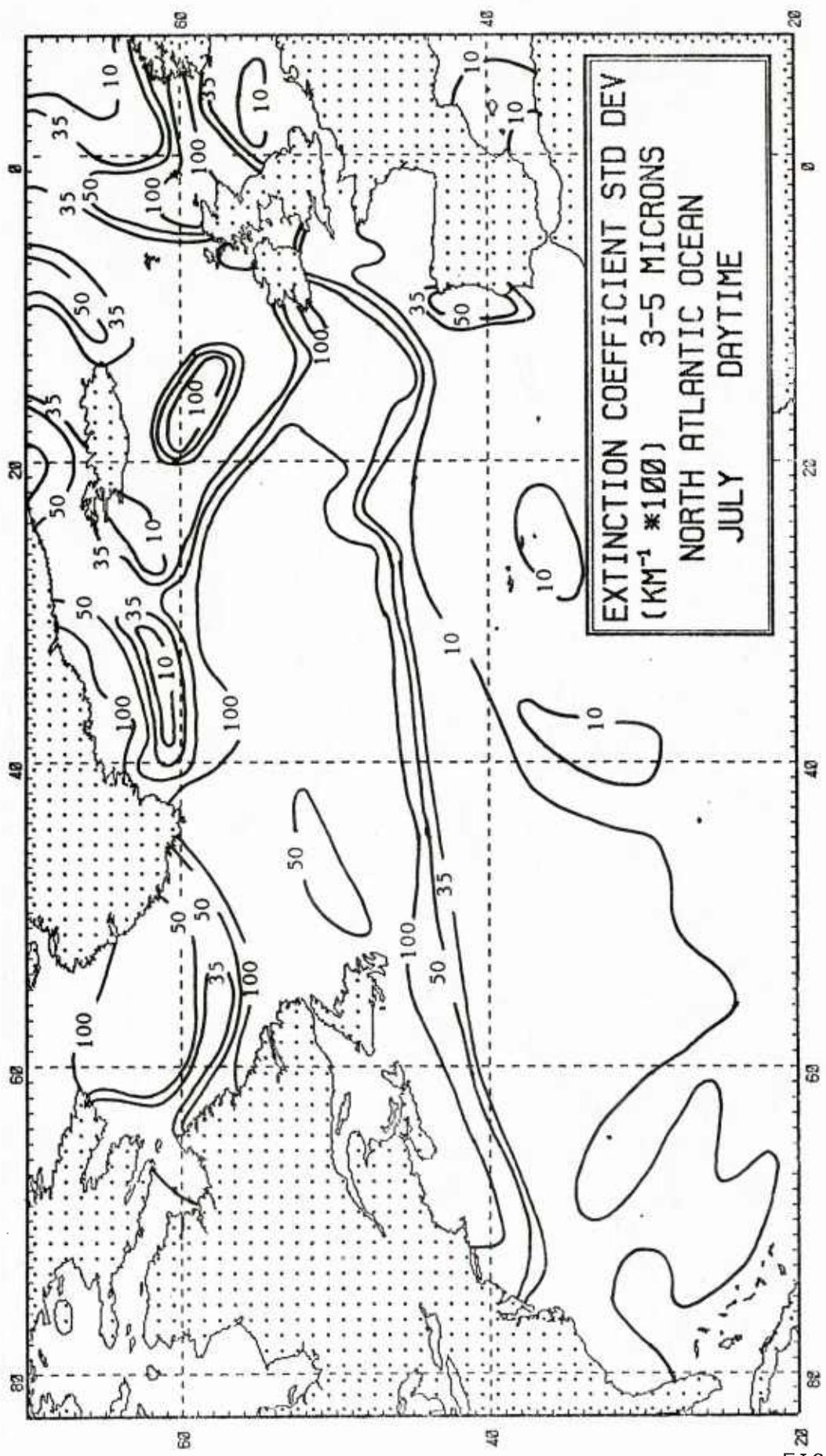
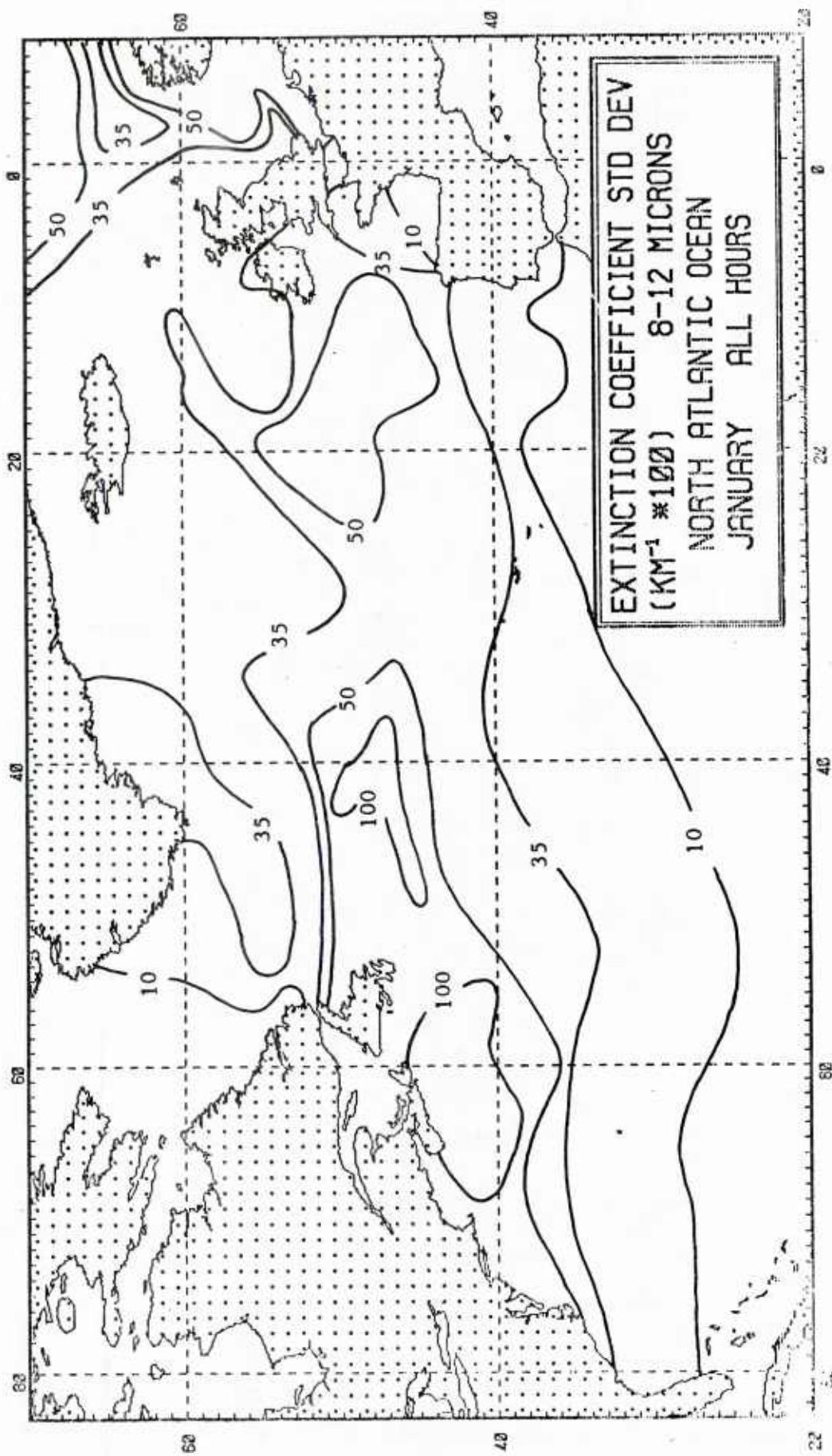
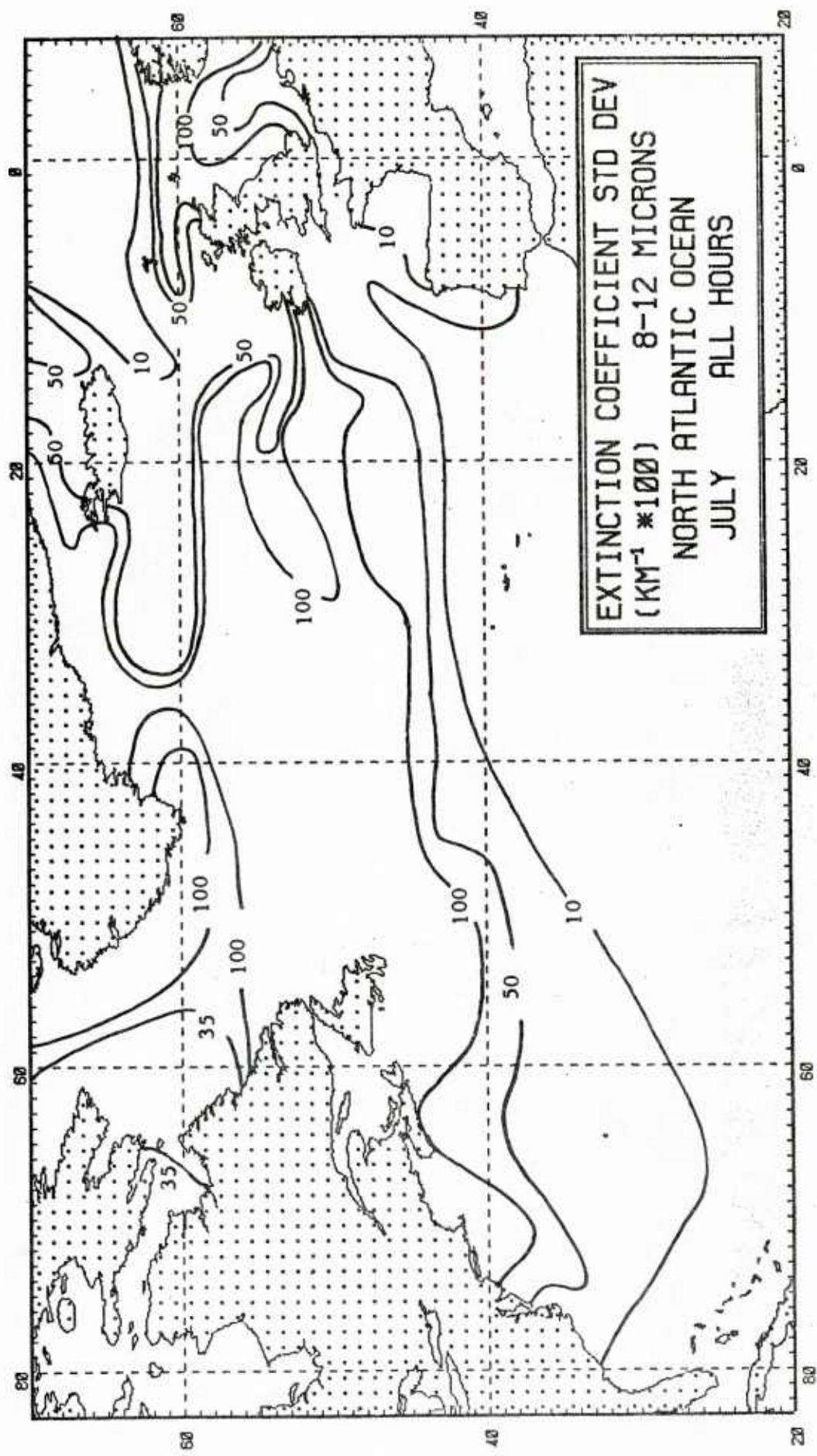


FIGURE 76









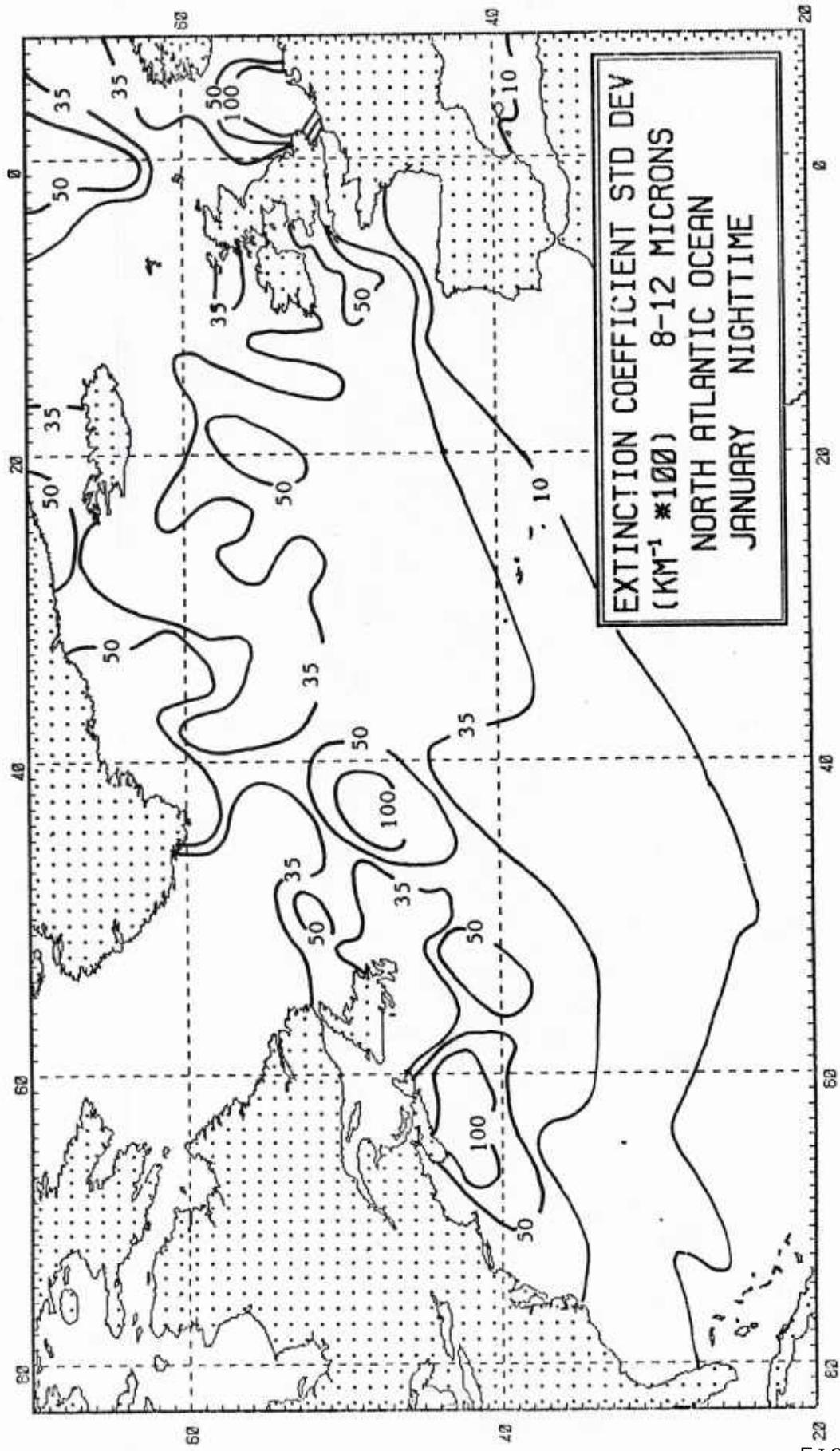
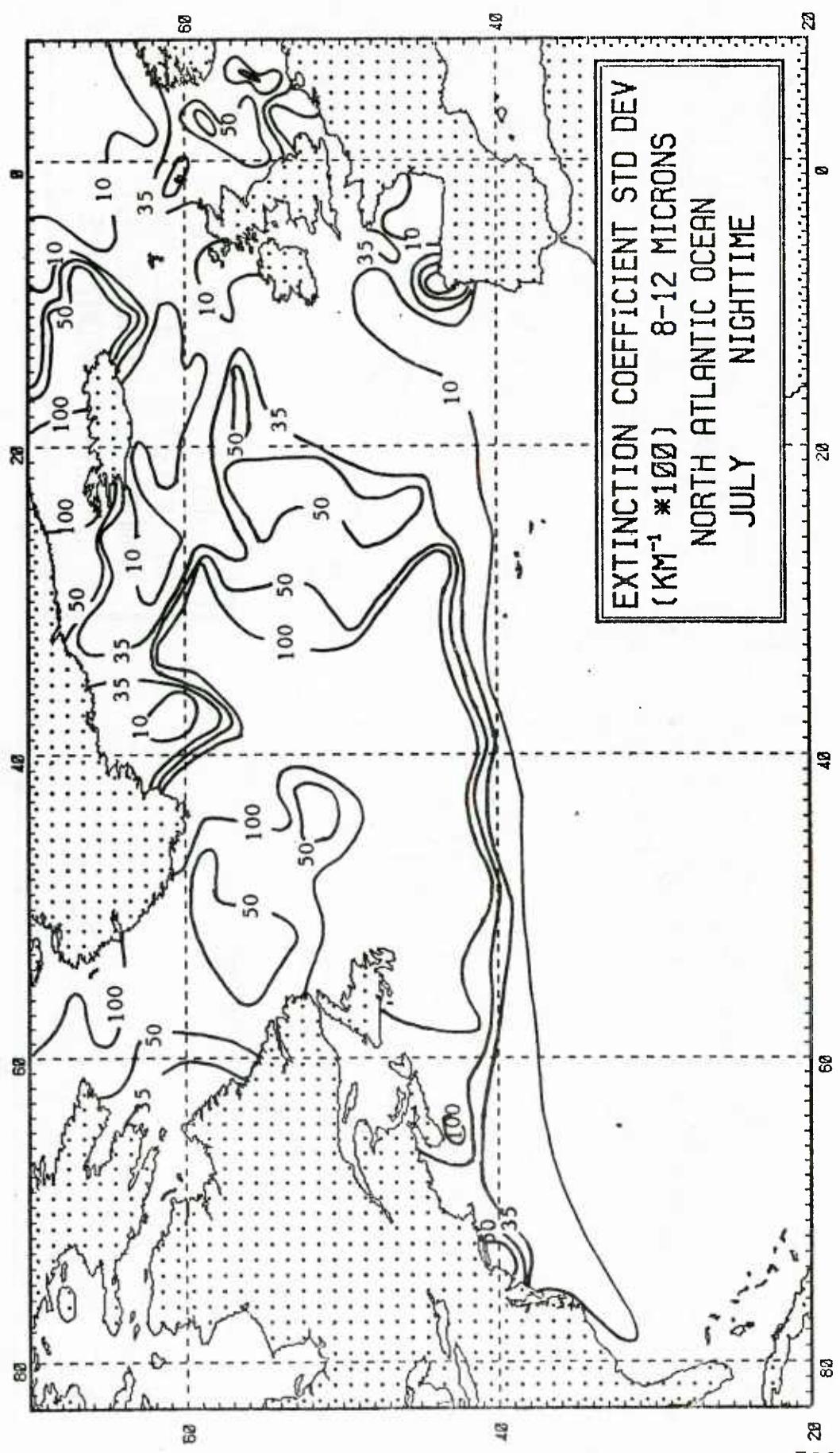
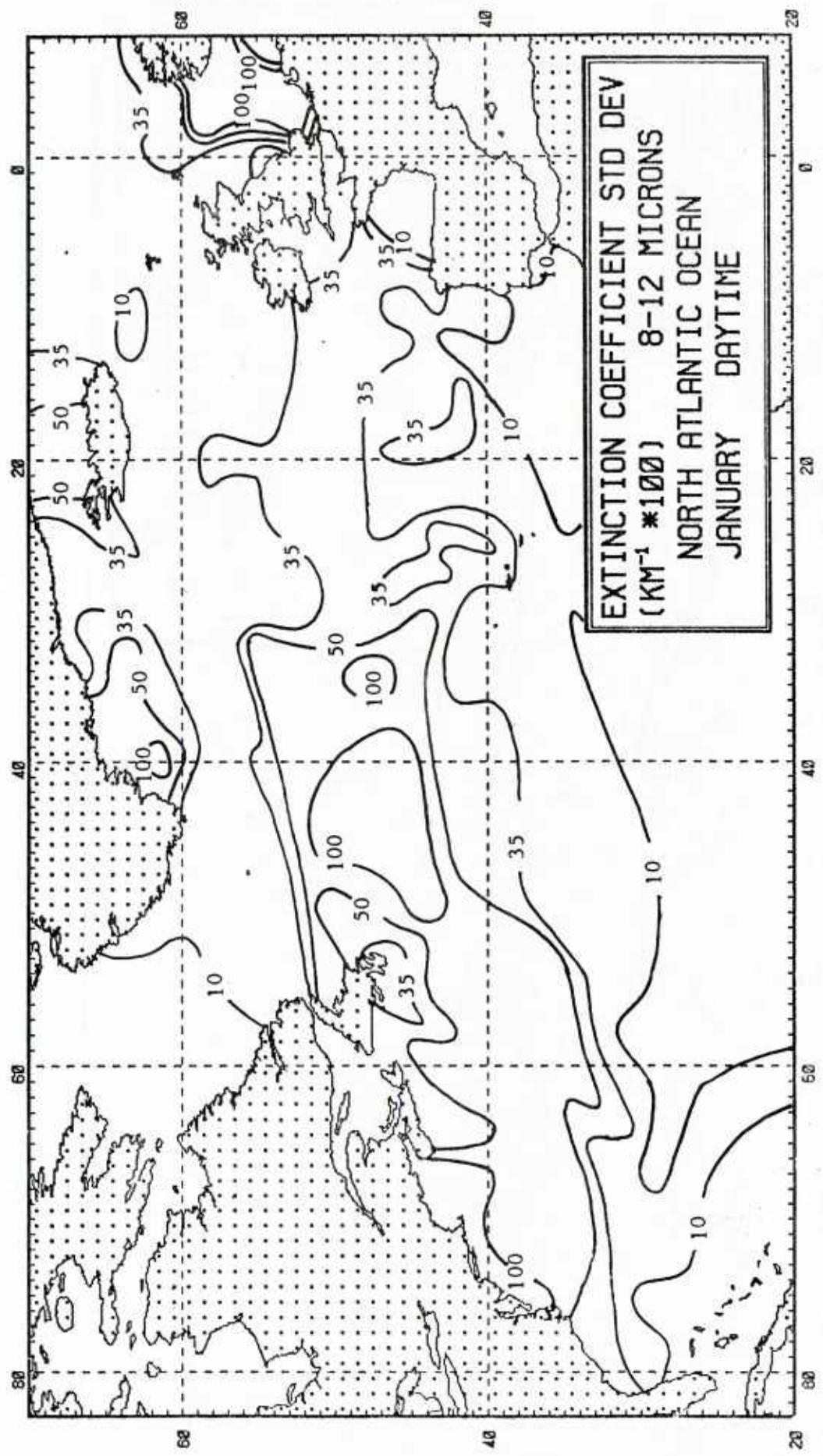
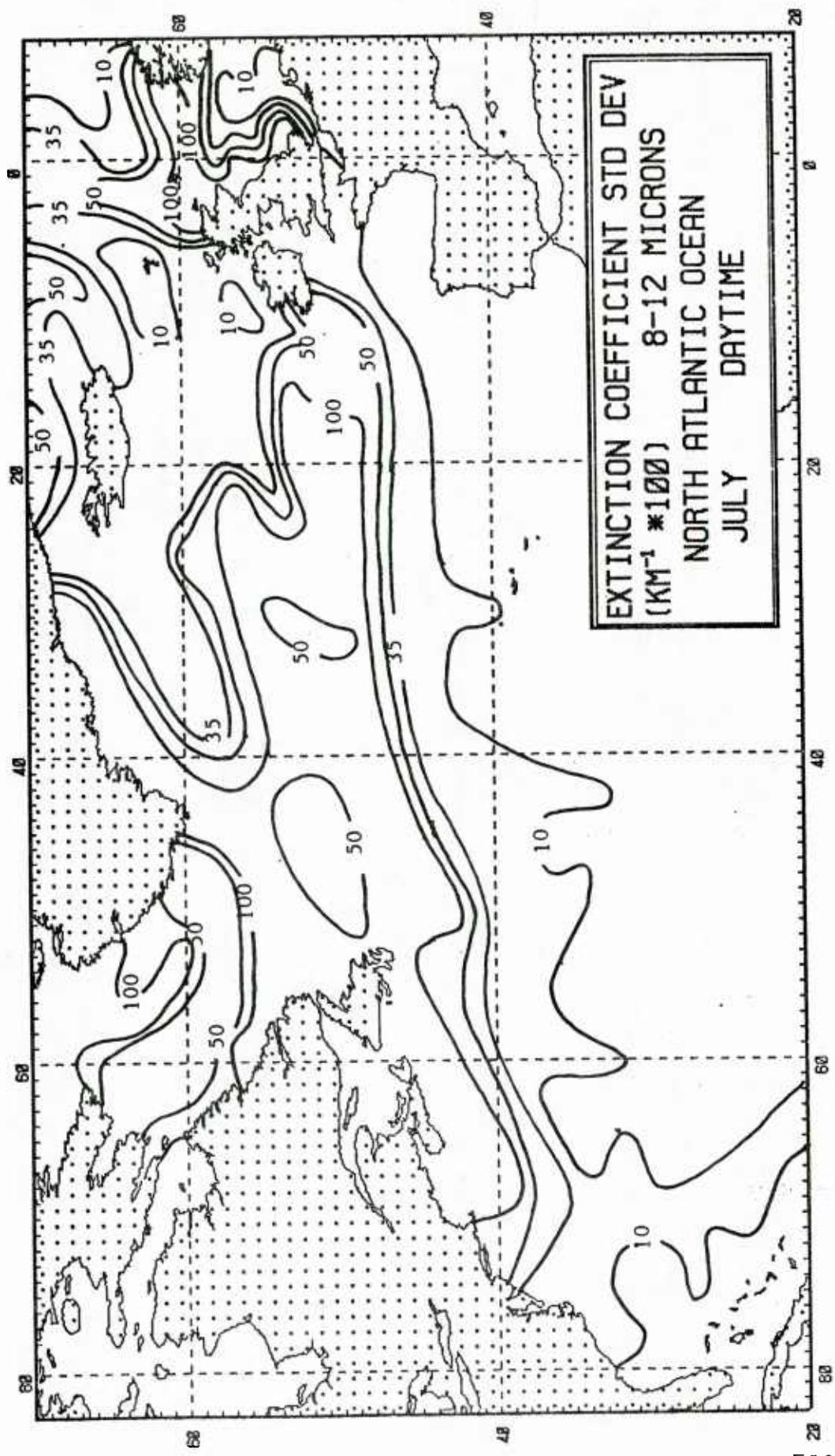


FIGURE 81







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